

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 45

MEMORIZE

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

READ

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

Sorrow and suffering are realities in this life, and Christians are not promised freedom from these realities. However, we do find comfort from resting in God’s sovereign and loving lordship expressed in Christ. One of God’s purposes in sorrow is that we would experience direct, personal comfort from God, and then from that experience we would be able to minister God’s comfort to others. We are not only comforted by God and extend comfort to others, but we have hope. We have absolute confidence in God’s eternal promises based on His unshakeable faithfulness. “Suffering” might seem like an overly burdensome word to use about what brings sadness and sorrow to our kids. But that’s not the point. Wherever any of us fall on the spectrum of suffering, we can all find hope in the comfort God offers to us and through us to others.

Questions:

What kind of “afflictions” do you experience?

How does God provide us comfort when we’re sad?

In what ways might God use us to bring comfort to others who are sad?

Bottom Line: God comforts the sorrowful.

SING

There is no question that in life, even as Christ-followers, we will face trials and struggles of various kinds. But God, in His grace and love, wraps us in His comfort during those times. This week’s worship song, “Never Once” by Matt Redman, Jason Ingram, and Tim Wanstall, is a prayer of thanksgiving acknowledging God’s faithful presence with us as He soothes and reassures us when we endure difficult circumstances. Worship Him with joy and praise as you sing these words and remember how God comforts you during life’s inevitable tough and thorny situations.

Never once did we ever walk alone
Never once did You leave us on our own
You are faithful God You are faithful

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 and read the verses to your preschooler.
- Talk about the word “comfort” and it’s meaning. The word comfort means to make someone feel less unhappy.
- Now Google a recording of a baby crying.
- Ask the questions: Can you tell me what this is? It’s a baby crying. The baby sounds very sad. Have you ever been sad? What are some times you feel sad?
- God knows when we are sad. He knows everything. In the verses we just read, the Bible tells us that God comforts us. He makes us feel “less unhappy.”
- God loves us so much! He knows and understands everything. He knows you better than you know yourself.

- Remember: God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. He wants us to turn away from our sin and to trust Him. God wants us to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with others too.
- Conclude your family time with prayer and thank God for comforting us and taking care of us when we are sad.

Children

- Before you begin: Grab a handful or un-popped popcorn kernels.
- Ask: Can you think of ways you have suffered pain or disappointment or sadness? What makes you feel better when you are hurting or discouraged or disappointed? (A blanket, a hug from mom or dad, eating your favorite food, talking with friends, etc.)
- Explain: Any of those things might offer some comfort in times of pain or loss, but are they really enough? When life hurts we need something – or someone – better than that.
- Read: 2 Cor. 1:3-11. We don't know exactly what happened to Paul. His trouble could have been something physical – an illness or injury, or it could have been a time of sadness or distress. Whatever it was, he felt like it was going to kill him. But when he was at his very lowest, he found comfort from God. Or even better yet, comfort found him! And it was more than enough to get him through his suffering.
- Ask: How many times does the word comfort appear in this passage? (9) What exactly is comfort?
- Explain: We tend to think of comfort as something that makes us feel better like eating our favorite food, someone telling us it's going to be okay, or getting a good night's sleep. When God comforts us He doesn't just make us feel better, He helps us grow by giving us courage and strength. And when God gives us comfort He doesn't just give us enough to get through things, He gives us enough to give away.
- Do: Show the kids some un-popped popcorn kernels and say these represent us. Un-popped popcorn isn't all that good to eat. But if the kernels get heated enough they will pop open and we will have something really great. Popcorn can remind us that when we feel some heat, are sick, or get bad news, God will give us comfort. And He will give us so much comfort that we pop and have more than enough to share with others who are hurting. Pop some popcorn and think of ways you can comfort others with the same comfort God has given you.

Students

- Intro
 - Have each family member share *highs* and *lows* of the last week.
 - *Highs* are the best things that happened.
 - *Lows* are the not so great things that happened.
 - Let each family member try to share 3 *highs* and 3 *lows*.
 - Do you ever feel like there are some weeks where the *lows* outnumber or outweigh the *highs*?
 - It seems like there are bad, difficult, or hard things that happen in our lives all of the time.
 - And if we watch the news or look online or talk with friends, we know that people in our lives and others around the world are suffering because the *lows* are part of everyone's lives.
 - What are we supposed to do with all of these *lows*?
- Discussion
 - Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.
 - According to this passage, will we as believers suffer?
 - What does "affliction" mean?
 - Who comforts us?
 - How does God intend to use the comfort He provides His children in the lives of others?
 - Take a moment to read through the *Read* section above.
 - Do you sometimes feel that you should never have to suffer because you are a child of God?
 - It can be easy for us to get mad at God because difficult circumstances arise in our lives.
 - God never promises that our lives will be easy as believers. He actually promises the opposite.
 - Do you need to confess to God any anger you have felt toward Him during difficult times?
 - What kind of afflictions do you face in your life?
 - Think about the *lows* that you listed earlier.
 - How do you see God comforting you in those areas?
- How can God use those things to comfort others through you?