

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 46

MEMORIZE

2 Corinthians 3:18 – And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

READ

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

Christians often rest on the moment when they put their faith in Christ (justification) and that they will one day be transformed and spend all of eternity with Him (glorification), but at the same time often misunderstand what should happen in this life (sanctification). This week we are exploring what happens between when we first come to faith in Christ and when we meet Him in eternity, which is known as the process of sanctification. This is something that occurs over time as we are transformed through His Word and by His Spirit. As we behold the glory of God we are transformed into the image of God. All of our children grasp the concept of growth as they see themselves grow up. This week we want to help them understand that growth is an essential aspect of their spiritual life as well, and, of course, God is the one who grants the growth.

Questions:

What is sanctification?

How does God's Spirit grow us in our faith?

What are some ways you see people grow in their relationship with God?

Bottom Line: God grows us spiritually through sanctification.

SING

Growing into the image of Christ is a lifelong process of “putting off” sin and “putting on” righteousness. This is the natural outcome of beholding the glory of God. The Spirit works in us to increase our love, joy, peace, patience, etc. Conversely, He enables us to cast aside envy, deceit, impurity, immorality, etc. In short, we grow to reflect Jesus.

The words of “Shine Into Our Night” beautifully express this process of sanctification. Written in 2011 by Joel Szebel, the lyrics describe the transformation that happens as believers behold the glory of God. The chorus reads:

*Jesus Christ shine into our night
Drive our dark away till Your glory fills our eyes
Jesus Christ shine into our night
Bind us to Your cross where we find life*

May our lives increasingly reflect the image of Christ!

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 3:18 and find a fruit or vegetable in the refrigerator.
- Read the verse to your preschooler and explain that the Bible tells us that God wants us to know Him, His power and His love. Remember that God created everything in the world and that *everything* He created is for His glory, even us. God wants us to trust in Him and to follow His plan for our lives. It's not always easy but with God's help we can do it.
- Show your child the fruit or vegetable that you selected. Explain to your preschooler that this fruit started out as a simple

seed. Someone (probably a farmer) planted a seed into the ground and worked very hard to care for the seed so that it could grow into this delicious food for us to eat. Someone spent time learning how to make the seed grow. They had to choose the right soil to plant it in. Once the seed was planted, it's owner spent time caring for it by watering and pruning it. They had to keep the bugs away so they wouldn't destroy the fruit. Carefully, they were picked and packed the fruit into boxes and sent it to grocery stores, which allowed us to buy them to eat. Wow, that's a lot of hard work!

- What would have happened if the farmer who planted the seed had never watered it or taken the time to care for it? It probably would never have grown into a beautiful fruit.
- Well, Jesus wants us to grow and become more like Him too. When we choose to follow God and turn away from our sin and bad choices, He gives us the care and strength we need to follow Him. If we spend time with God, talk to Him, study the Bible, and tell others about His power and love, then we are following His plans for us. We, too, are growing in His love. We will look more like Jesus.
- Spiritual growth takes time and we need to let our children see us reading and studying our Bible every day. Sometimes we need to have a "Bible show and tell" as we say in preschool. Start by telling your child who told you about Christ or share your favorite Bible verse.
- Pray and ask God to help your family grow in Him.

Children

- Gather several old and current school pictures of your child. If you have a growth chart, you can show them that as well.
- Start by asking your child if, when you were first born, they started out as a baby and then suddenly the next day they became a full-grown adult? Of course not!
- When a person first turns from their sin and trusts Jesus as Savior and Lord, do they immediately become just like Jesus? Of course not! So how does a person become more like Jesus?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.
- Go back and re-read verse 18 where it says we "are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." Explain that this verse is referring to the process of sanctification.
- Ask if they know what sanctification means. Explain that it is the process of becoming more like Christ, from the time when we first trust Jesus and when we meet Him in eternity. This process takes time as a person grows up in their faith.
- Show your child their old and current school pictures (or refer to their growth chart). Ask if they can see how much they have grown over the years. Compare this to growing in their faith. They are not born one day and then the next day they are full-grown adults. Growth happens over time.
- What are some ways that we can grow in our relationship with God? (Ex.: read the Bible by ourselves, study the Bible with our small groups, pray, worship through song and praise, obey God, etc.)
- Can we make ourselves grow? Can we say to ourselves, "GROW!" and we are suddenly 4 inches taller? No! Neither can we make ourselves grow spiritually. God is the one who helps us grow in our faith as we are obedient to Him by doing the things we just listed above. The last part of verse 18 reads, "For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."
- How important it is that we grow? Would it be good to stay a baby forever? No! God wants all of us to grow and mature in our faith. Ask what steps they need to take to follow God more closely so that God can help them grow in their faith.
- Pray and ask God to help us be obedient in following Him more closely. Thank God for the ways He has already helped you grow in your faith.

Students

- Make a list of activities that you have in which you have grown throughout your life (ex. speaking English, playing soccer, singing, running, etc.).
- How have you progressed over the years? Drastic or Gradual?
- Were there moments of great advancement? How about times of slow or little growth? Discuss.
- What would happen if you stopped training/practicing/participating in the activities in which you have grown? Why are these things essential for growth?
- Do you think these truths translate to believers and their relationship with Christ?
- The word "sanctify" means "to make holy". It is a two-part process – God's part and our part. If you are a Christian this process is seen in how God works in your life and how you respond in faith and obedience. Sanctification is the way in which one becomes more like Christ after they become a Christ follower.
- How have you grown since you became a believer?
- How have you progressed over the years? Drastic or Gradual?
- Were there moments of great advancement? How about times of slow to little growth?
- What might be a next step as you grow in your relationship with Christ?