

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 17

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 2:2 – For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-2.

Christian preaching is a corporate act of worship in Christ's church, involving both preachers and hearers. Its primary goal is for God to be glorified as people put their faith in Him. To accomplish this, His Word should be delivered free of distraction, rooted in Christ's cross and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Certainly Paul had preaching in mind when he wrote of his proclamation of the testimony of Jesus Christ among the Corinthian church. The verses for this week highlight what should be the focus of a preacher's sermon as well as what we are to expect out of our preachers. However, beyond the formal act of preaching in a worship gathering, these verses also speak to what the focus of our own testimonies should be: Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Questions:

Why should preachers and we avoid "lofty speech" when sharing about Jesus?

Why should the focus of preaching be on Jesus?

How can we ensure our own testimonies focus on Jesus?

Bottom Line: The focus of preaching should always be Jesus.

SING

This week's teaching is so important because it reminds us to wipe away everything that distracts us from worshiping and loving our Savior so that we can be sure all our attention is on the One worthy of all our worship and praise. The song we chose to underscore this idea is "By Faith" by Keith and Kristyn Getty. As you sing, pray that these words will be true of you and your family, asking the Holy Spirit to transform your heart so that all your affections are on Jesus.

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

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 & Children

- Before you begin open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 2:2. Grab an apple, a ruler, and pencils or chalk, all of which are traditional items associated with teachers.
- Read the verse to your preschooler. Discuss the items and how they are symbols of "teachers" and discuss the responsibilities of teachers.
- Now explain the role of our pastor. Explain to your child that the pastor teaches us about God and Jesus. He uses the Bible, God's Word, to teach others.
- However, Jesus wants us to be like our teacher and pastor too. He wants us tell others about His love for us. Our focus should be to share that God sent Jesus from Heaven to Earth to save us from our sins and bad choices. Because God loves us, He sent His only Son to save us and now we need to share this good news with other people. Everyone needs to do their part in teaching and telling others about Jesus.
- Conclude your family time with prayer. Pray for your pastors and teachers.

Students

- Text message alerts, billboards, TV commercials, and those guys who spin advertisement signs on the side of the road – we live in a world filled with distractions. This is all well and good, except for when those things we are being distracted from are vitally important.
- Begin your time with your family by playing “spoons.” (If you need directions visit this website: <http://boardgames.about.com/od/cardgames/a/spoons.htm>.) The whole point of the game is to be one of the ones who gets a spoon. However, you will find that one of the best methods of winning is to distract the other players! At the end of the game, ask who was the best at providing distractions during the game. Then talk about times when being distracted costs you greatly (e.g. driving, performing surgery, taking a test).
- After everyone has shared, read I Corinthians 2:1-2 together. Point out that Paul’s greatest desire was that his life and speech pointed toward Christ. He also said that for that reason he did not use “lofty speech or wisdom”. Ask your students to share what might distract someone who was sharing their faith. Are there things that they have seen people do or say that turned people away from Christ? Have there been times in your life you wish you could change when you did something to turn people away from Christ? At this point ask your student if they know of anything in their own lives that might be a distraction to anyone else coming to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Spend time in prayer as a family, asking the Lord to guard each of you against distractions and be faithful to the mission to which He has called you.