

Family Worship Guide – Week 11

MEMORIZE

Matthew 13:44 – “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

READ

Read Matthew 13:24-51.

This chapter of Matthew is full of different stories that explain aspects of the kingdom of God. There are three main ideas that the stories are communicating. First, they illustrate the value of the Kingdom. Jesus says in vv. 44-45 that finding the kingdom of heaven is like a great treasure, one worth joyfully giving up everything for. The kingdom is also valuable because the prophets foretold it long ago (v. 35). The kingdom has been planned for a very long time.

Second, these stories tell us about the nature of the kingdom. We see that Jesus is the One establishing and building the kingdom (vv. 36-43). Then we see that the kingdom is going to grow and spread (vv. 31-33). Also, we see that the kingdom of God will overcome the world (vv. 30, 33, 38).

Finally, these stories clearly depict the conquering King of this kingdom. He will come to punish those who have rebelled against him and his law (vv. 30,40-42,49-50). But for those who are his, they will shine like the sun (v. 43).

Questions:

Which group of people do you find yourself among as we approach the coming of the King? Are you one who shines with righteousness like the sun? Has Jesus clothed you with his righteousness, or are you still one who rebels against his reign? Is the kingdom of God a treasure to you? Is it worth giving everything for? Does it fill you with complete joy? If not, why do you think this is so?

What sticks out to you in this passage? What is your favorite part? What is your least favorite part? What part of Jesus' words brings the most joy to you?

Bottom Line: Jesus, the conquering King of the kingdom, establishes his kingdom by rescuing the sons of his kingdom and defeating the enemies of his kingdom.

SING

This week we will sing 'All Because of Jesus'. This is a song that celebrates Jesus as Creator, Sustainer, and Giver of all things. The greatest and most miraculous gift he has given is salvation. In Mathew 13:16-17 Jesus says, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

There is nothing we can do to deserve this great salvation and yet God has given it freely. We were dead in our sin and Christ brought us life. As we sing let us celebrate the fact that Jesus has rescued us and has made us alive in him. We now join with his creation in singing his praise.

Visit our website for a link to this song: http://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, think of a time you personally lost something that was important or special to you. You will share this story with your child.
- Begin by opening your Bible and reading Matthew 13:44 to your preschooler. Explain that this verse is about finding a hidden treasure or something that was lost.
- Now share your personal story about something you lost. Talk about how you felt when you lost it and how you felt when you found it. Make sure to share your feelings, both when you lost and found the item (i.e. sad, happy afraid). Explain to your preschooler that God loves us all so much that he wants everyone to find him. When we find Jesus, we find the treasure. He is the greatest treasure of all! He is more important than anything, even your toys. God sent Jesus from Heaven to Earth so that we would all come to know him. God wants everyone to know him. He is sad when his people don't find him or follow him.
- Close with prayer. Pray and ask God to help us love him most of all, more than anything!

Children

- Read Matthew 13: 24-51. This is a grouping of parables in which Jesus taught about the kingdom of heaven.
- How many times can you find the phrase "kingdom of heaven" in these verses? (6) What does it mean? This phrase reminds the Jewish listeners that Jesus did not come to overthrow the Romans, but that God's Kingdom is in heaven and not of this earth. To be a citizen of Christ's kingdom, you must be a follower of Jesus.
- Jesus teaches two parables that explain the value of the kingdom of heaven. Can you find them? (Treasure hidden in a field and the pearl of great price.) Jesus is teaching that following God is worth all that we have on this earth and more. The kingdom of heaven is worth giving our lives for. To see others come to know about Jesus and also be followers of Christ is worth all we have and all we are. The 12 disciples would learn this personally. All of the original disciples of Jesus (except John and Judas) were martyred for their faith in Christ, but they would find great reward in heaven.
- Jesus also taught what the kingdom of heaven is like. Read vv. 24-30 again. The man sows the seeds. This man (Jesus) establishes and grows his kingdom. Satan will try to stop Jesus by sowing "bad seeds" into the field, but Jesus is not worried. Jesus knows his seeds, which are the children of God, and they will be with him in heaven one day. In vv. 31-33, Jesus taught about a mustard seed. It is the very smallest seed, but it grows into a tree that is 8-12 feet tall. Jesus' kingdom may have started in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, but it will spread to the whole earth. In vs. 33, Jesus taught about leaven, or yeast. It was used to bake with and make bread rise. It only takes a little amount to get into the entire dough. To see this visually with your child, use a packet of Kool-Aid, a pitcher, and water. Show that just by adding a little Kool-Aid to a pitcher of water, all the water is changed by the mix. And the whole world was changed by the life of Jesus.
- Lastly, Jesus warns that he will one day return to the earth not as a Savior, but as the Righteous Judge. Jesus will separate the righteous and the unrighteous (vv. 30, 36-43, 47-50). You might use marbles or M&M's to show your child how Jesus will separate those who know him and those who do not know him.
- Pray and thank God that he sent Jesus to teach us about the Kingdom of heaven. Pray for anyone you know who has not yet trusted in Jesus as savior and Lord.

Students

- Begin by praying together as a family, then read Matthew 13:24-51.
- Discuss the "Read" section above.
 - Before discussing the questions above, walk through the following points as a family.
- What are some things you value? Examples could be friends, sports, a hobby, electronics, or other special possessions.
 - What would you do to get or keep these things? Examples could be working out for a sport or saving up to buy something.
 - Why are you willing to sacrifice your time or resources to get these things? Because they are important to you.
- Jesus says in Matthew 13:44-45 that we should value the Kingdom of God more than we value anything else in our life. Why is the Kingdom that important?
 - Luke 1:32-33 – God's Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. It is one that will outlast all our possessions and treasures on earth.
 - Matthew 6:31-33 – God's kingdom is enough. He provides for all our needs.
 - Acts 8:12 – God's Kingdom is good news. His Kingdom saves us from our sin and from death.
 - As a family, can you think of additional reasons why the Kingdom of God is important?
- What keeps you from valuing the Kingdom? Read Luke 12:32-34.
 - Jesus says that where we spend our time and our resources is where our heart is.
 - Where does the majority of your time and resources go?
 - What does that say about your heart?

- The reason the two men in Matthew 13:44-45 sold everything they had to buy the field and pearl is because they believed those things were more valuable than the rest of their possessions.
 - How do you think the world saw their decisions? They probably thought they were crazy because they did not know what was buried in the field.
 - How does the world see your decision to follow Christ and seek after the Kingdom? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18.
- What are some idols (things you value over the Kingdom) in your life that you need to give up?
 - Read Philippians 3:7-9.
 - These things may not all be bad things, per se, but good things you have put before God.
- Why is it important that we share this Kingdom? Read Romans 10:13-15.
- How can you better use your time and resources for the Kingdom?

