

Family Worship Guide – Week 12

MEMORIZE

Matthew 13:58 – And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

READ

Read Matthew 13:53-58.

When Jesus returned to Nazareth and taught in the synagogue there, the people were amazed. They wondered how in the world the carpenter's son, whose family they all knew, had grown up to be so wise and to do such amazing works. However, their amazement didn't translate into faith. We don't know what exactly Jesus taught them that day, but we do know they rejected it. Jesus even recognized that it was difficult for the Nazarenes to listen to him and believe him because they had known him all his life. Yet their unbelief meant that they would miss out on some of the blessing Jesus had to offer them. Because of their lack of faith, he didn't perform any miracles. There are instances in Scripture where Jesus performs miracles in order to bring about faith in his audience. However, this was an instance where the lack of faith directly resulted in the lack of the miraculous.

Questions:

Why, as Jesus said, is a prophet without honor in his hometown?

Why did Jesus refuse to do any mighty works for the people?

Why do you think Jesus allowed the crowds unbelief to affect whether or not he would perform any miracles?

Bottom Line: Lack of faith can result in a lack of miracles.

SING

We've just read how Jesus' own neighbors were amazed at his teaching and the miracles he performed, evidence of his deity, lordship, and sovereignty over our lives, and yet they did not have faith. May our hearts be full of faith in Jesus' majesty. Because Jesus is our Sovereign King, we chose Chris Tomlin's arrangement of 'O Worship the King' as our song this week. In 1833, Robert Grant, an English attorney and Member of Parliament, reworked the lyrics of a William Kethe Psalter from 1561 to form the tune we are familiar with. Grant often penned sacred poems and hymns, all of which were published posthumously by his brother, Lord Glenelg.

'O Worship the King' was based on Psalm 104, which proclaims, "Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent." It goes on to describe the Lord and his wondrous creation. He is the One who gave us the very breath we breathe, and through Jesus, provided us with sweet salvation. Therefore, we sing these praises, "You alone are the matchless King! To You alone be all majesty!"

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 open your Bible to Matthew 13:58 and read the passage to your preschooler.
- Talk about breathing with your preschooler. Demonstrate taking a deep breath and blowing out air to your child. Have your child take a deep breath too. Tell your preschooler that we need air to breathe. Without air we can't breathe. Can we see the air? No, but we know it's there because we can breathe.
- God gave us air to breathe. Can we see God? Is it hard for you to believe things you do not see? The Bible says that believing in God, having faith in him, is a gift. Jesus desires for us to believe in him without doubting. He is there even

though we can't see him. God wants us to know him. God wants us to know his Son, Jesus, who is stronger than anything.

- Conclude by rereading the scripture and praying that God will give you faith.

Children

- Materials: A ball of some type.
- Tell your child(ren) that you have a ball that can be used to do many cool things. Tell them that you will give them a ball with which to do as many things as they can. (These could include a bounce, dribble, juggle, spin on finger, throw high, throw far, kick, balance on head, roll on back, etc.). As they take turns doing something with the ball, applaud each time. Tell them that you did not know what they would do with the ball, but you chose to give them the ball and waited to see what they would do.
- Ask the child(ren) what things they could have done with the ball if you had refused to give it to them. (Answers may include: "none of them", "I couldn't do anything without the ball", or "nothing").
- Tell the child(ren) that your decision to give them the ball was kind of like what we do when we have faith in Jesus. When we have faith in Jesus we give him our trust. Sometimes people think faith is the same thing as believing or hoping that something (like a wish) will happen in the future and might say something like this: "I had faith my brother would win the race and he did". Tell your child(ren) that this makes faith sound like the ability to predict what will happen in the future which is **not** what faith is. Remind them that faith in Jesus is not knowing exactly what is going to happen in the future; faith is choosing to trust Jesus with the future and waiting for him to show us his wonders (miracles) in his timing.
- Explain that a lack of faith in Jesus is refusing to trust him. The people in Nazareth refused to give Jesus their trust (like refusing to give someone the ball) so he did not show them wonders (like you would not do anything with the ball if it was not given to you).
- Pray together that your family would choose to trust Jesus with the future and see his wonders.

Students

- While amazed at the words and works of Jesus, the people of Nazareth did not trust him. They had seen Jesus grow up and regarded him in an overly familiar and ordinary way.
 - Discuss how this same attitude can occur in our own lives.
 - Why is knowledge about Jesus not enough?
 - How can an over-emphasis on knowing facts about Jesus actually hinder faith?
- The people's lack of faith prevented them from seeing God move in more extraordinary ways. They were skeptical about Jesus even after personally knowing him and seeing him do incredible things.
 - Reflect upon moments in your life when you've been skeptical about Christ. Share some of these as a family.
 - How did God overcome these times of doubt in your life?
 - What did Christ teach you through your experiences?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 11:6. If time permits, read through all of Hebrews 11.
 - Why is faith so essential to knowing and pleasing God?
 - How would you describe your level of faith right now?
 - What questions, doubts, or circumstances seem to hinder your faith?
 - Pray through these struggles together.

