

## Family Worship Guide – Week 13

### MEMORIZE

Matthew 15:18 – “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.”

### READ

Read Matthew 15:1-20.

Jesus teaches a very important lesson in this passage using the Pharisees. The Pharisees, who claimed to follow the laws of God the most closely, were actually breaking the law. They had begun to teach their own laws and enforce them on God’s people instead of teaching God’s laws.

Jesus says that this means they were hypocrites. To be a hypocrite means that you say one thing but you actually do another. Jesus said that the Pharisees worshipped God with their lips but they weren’t truly worshipping God with their hearts.

This is a very important truth for us to think through ourselves. It is very easy for us to say that we follow God and worship him without actually worshipping him at all. Together as a family reflect on the words of Jesus’. Are you worshipping Jesus with your lips and then living in opposition to what he says? Or do you truly worship him with your words and your heart, in spirit and in truth?

#### Questions:

What does this passage teach us about God? What does this passage teach us about man?

Are there any commands that we need to obey in this passage? Are there any promises in which we can hope?

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:** True worship means not just saying you worship Christ, but truly loving him and doing what he says.

### SING

We see in God’s Word this week that Jesus desires genuine hearts, not white washed religion. This week, we respond to Matthew 15 with a plea for God to take over every facet of our lives. Oh, that we might be genuinely devoted to Christ in every moment of the day, with all that we are and with all that we have! This week our Family Worship Song is Take My Life, written by Frances Ridley Havergal. Frances was an English poet and hymn writer. Amos R. Wells wrote of her,

*“Studying in England and Germany, Miss Havergal became a good Hebrew and Greek scholar, and knew several modern languages. She became also a brilliant singer and piano-player, and a glittering career in society was open before her. But she considered all her talents to be only loans from the Lord, to be used in His service. She would not even sing, except sacred music, and for the purpose of winning souls.”*

This hymn was, for Frances, an overflow of her relationship with Christ and was a reflection of her sole devotion to him. Let’s sing, ponder and pray through the lyrics of this song this week. For those who find themselves completely captivated by and genuinely passionate for the Lord, let this be a song of praise and thankfulness, as well as a plea for God to continue to give grace. And for those who find themselves struggling to keep their head above water, let this be a time to honestly come to God and find that his mercy is new every morning and his love is steadfast. Draw near to God and let this song be a prayer and a plea, for he is faithful to rescue, he is powerful to transform, he is good to his church... and he alone is worthy of all our affection and worship!

Visit our website for a link to this song: [http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](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

- Read Matthew 15:18 with your preschooler.
- To help explain this scripture, do a simple demonstration by simply telling your child that you love them.
- Ask, "Do you believe that I love you? How do you know that I love you? Do you know that I love you just because I say that I love you?"
- Next, ask your preschooler to help you think of some ways that you have shown him or her your love. (Ex.: hugs, kisses, caring for their needs like food, water, teaching them about God, etc.)
- Explain to your child that we know someone loves us not just by hearing someone say that they love us, but also by the way they show us their love through their actions.
- God showed us how much he loved us by sending his only son, Jesus, from heaven to Earth to die on the cross and save us. When we love God more than anything else, other people will see God's love, too.
- Read Matthew 15:18 again. Explain to your preschooler that this verse helps remind us to love God with all of our hearts and to obey him. It's about Jesus being more important and more special than anything else in our lives. God changes our hearts so that we can love him and show others his care and love, too.
- Pray with your child and ask God to help you always choose to put God first and love him most of all.

### Children

- Have your child(ren) come in to the dining room. Tell them you have a big surprise for them. This could be "I made your favorite chocolate cake" or "We are going to watch a movie" or "I bought you a new video game" – something they would get really excited about. After telling them to sit down so you can get the surprise, begin to pantomime the actions of the surprise, whether that is slicing and serving and eating pretend cake (Is this not the best cake? Do you want ice cream, too?), or munching pretend popcorn and laughing at an invisible movie (Did you see that? This is my favorite part!).
  - The child(ren) will be rather confused and disappointed seeing you do this rather than bring out a real surprise. Ask them if they are enjoying the surprise. Answers may include "not really" or "well there is not anything to enjoy".
  - Tell them that saying you will do something is not the same thing as it actually doing something. Tell them that when we say we love or worship Christ without really doing it is a form of pretending. But it is not a game. Just as the children were disappointed to find out their surprise was not real, Jesus is very sad to see us pretending to love him while we make bad choices that do not honor him.
- Remind the child(ren) that Jesus wants us to tell the truth to him and others. He already knows what is in our hearts anyway. If we really love and worship him, we obey his commands.
- Pray as a family that each of you will be honest in what you say to Jesus and others and that you will show your love for him by really doing what he says, not just pretending to do it.

### Students

- This teaching from Jesus came after some Pharisees challenged him and his disciples on not washing their hands before a meal. Jesus quickly moves the focus from cleanliness to a matter of the heart.
- Reread Matthew 15:10-20. Based on this passage, what did Jesus say makes a person unclean? (*It's not what goes into your mouth but what comes out.*)
- Now read James 1:22-26. How are these two passages connected? (*Both indicate that the tongue is a window into a person's true heart. As Christ followers we have been called to action with both our tongues and our deeds.*)
- Are you ever around students that say they believe one thing but do the opposite? Discuss this as a family. How should someone's beliefs affect his or her actions?
- Many students spend their time in high school and middle school becoming good at a few things, i.e. football, cheerleading, schoolwork, becoming popular, etc. What are you currently known for at your school? What do you want to be known for?
- Write out an answer to this question: "What is a Christian?"
- How are the things you are known for reflecting Christ to your friends? Do these things differ from the characteristics you listed above?
- Remember, the bottom line this week is not just saying you worship Christ, but truly loving him and doing what he says. Pray that the Lord would constantly remind you of the truth you profess to believe. Ask for help in living a life that reflects your relationship with Christ.

