

Family Worship Guide – Week 14

MEMORIZE

Matthew 27:54 – When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

READ

Read Matthew 27:45-54.

There is darkness in the middle of the day while Jesus hangs on the cross, from about noon until 3:00. This was a supernatural act of God symbolizing his judgment on humanity for crucifying his Son. Yet, Jesus is not a passive player in the story of his death. We still see him exercising his kingly authority, as he does not die until the right time has come and he yields up his spirit. Once he does, even more supernatural events occur. There was a great earthquake and the curtain in the temple separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the building was torn in two, symbolizing the removal of the separation between God and humankind. The bodies of godly men and women were raised to show that those who died looking forward to the Messiah found their own salvation and resurrection in the death and resurrection of Christ, just as we all do. All of these supernatural events served as a testimony to who Jesus really was. A centurion and some others around him recognized this fact coupled with the love, self-control and purity Jesus demonstrated on the cross. The culmination of all of these occurrences was for them to confess that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

Questions:

How did Jesus demonstrate his kingly authority on the cross?

What was significant about the curtain in the temple being torn in two?

What led to the centurion confessing Jesus as the Son of God?

Bottom Line: Jesus’ death on the cross demonstrated that he was the Son of God.

SING

Let’s continue our worship with a song of praise to our Mighty King, Jesus. This week our family worship song comes from Sovereign Grace Music, ‘Behold our God’. Behold him there. See the cross, see the blood, see the man who had no sin and yet for our sake became sin, hanging on a tree, our spotless sacrifice, Jesus. By his wounds we are healed; by his death the wrath of God is satisfied. So we celebrate, not only his sacrificial death, but also his triumphant resurrection from the grave! “Come let us adore him!”

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

- Read Matthew 27:54 with your preschooler.
- Tell your Preschooler that Jesus is the Son of God!
- Start by asking your preschooler these simple questions. Can you make the earth tremble and shake? Can you make it turn dark even in the daytime? Do you know of anyone who can make the ground tremble and shake? Do you know of anyone who can make the whole sky turn dark in the middle of the day? Jesus can and did!
- The Bible tells us that when Jesus died on the cross the earth trembled and shook. There was darkness in the middle of the day. God did it! God made it happen!
- Explain that there were many people who didn’t believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They didn’t believe that Jesus was the King of the whole world. The soldier at the foot of the cross didn’t believe it. Jesus wanted to help show the people who didn’t believe in him that he was the Son of God.

- Tell your child that when Jesus died, he caused the earth to tremble. Jesus caused the day to turn to dark. The soldier at the foot of the cross, said, “Truly, this was the Son of God.” Jesus helped him to believe.
- Jesus is the Son of God! He wants people to believe in him! He wants the whole world to know that he is the Son of God!
- Pray with your child and ask Jesus to show people who don’t believe in him, that he is the only true Son of God.

Children

- Read Matthew 27: 45-54. In Matthew’s account of the crucifixion, he continues to stress the key themes of his book: the Sonship, Lordship, and Kingship of Christ.
- These verses tell about Jesus’ last 3 hours on the cross, which occurred between noon and 3 p.m. During this time, complete darkness covered the sun. Why did God make it dark during the middle of the day? This is a picture of God’s judgment on man’s sins. Remember, Jesus not only took on our sin, but he became our sin (2 Cor. 5:21). God can’t look on sin, so God literally turned his back on Jesus for those 3 hours. For the first time, Jesus was out of fellowship with God. This is the cup that he had asked to be spared from in the Garden (Matt. 26: 39, 42). Jesus wasn’t afraid to die or even be tortured, but to be out of relationship with his Father was heart-breaking.
- What obedience, submission, and love would be necessary to keep Jesus on that cross? Remember, he is the Son of God. He can stop this at any second.
- What is the hardest thing your parents or teacher have asked you to do and you obeyed? Why did you obey? Would you have obeyed if you wouldn’t be punished? Jesus obeyed because he always submitted to his Father’s will. Why? Because he loved his Father and wanted to bring glory to the Father. Jesus is the Perfect Son!
- Read Matt. 27:50. What does “yield” mean? It means “to give up possession” or “to surrender or submit to another”. Read verse 50 again and now add in the definition for yield. The Bible is literally saying that Jesus surrendered possession of his spirit or human life.
- In John 19:30, we read that Jesus cried out, “It is finished,” before he died. What was finished? Read John 10: 17-18. Jesus’ redemptive work on earth was finished, so he surrendered his life. Jesus decided when he was ready to die because he truly is Lord and King.
- This is truly amazing! Jesus is Lord! No one could torture him, crucify him, or kill him without his permission. Think about that. Jesus had to allow all these things to happen? And why did he? Why did Jesus die a horrible, humiliating death on a cursed cross? Because Matthew 1: 21-23 tells us that he was born as a baby to save his people from their sins. And that’s just what he did. Mission accomplished!
- Read vv. 51-53 again. This is an account of several supernatural things that occur just as Jesus dies. Can you list them? Why do you think they are important?
 - Curtain torn in two from top to bottom – no more separation between God and mankind; Jesus is the high priest
 - Earthquake – physical effect of Jesus’ death
 - Saints resurrected – godly people who were looking forward to a Messiah have now found their salvation and resurrection in Jesus Christ (as all believers will)
- In Matt. 8, Jesus’ second miracle is to heal the servant of a Roman centurion. Jesus praises the Roman’s great faith (8:10). It is interesting that it will also be a Roman, not a Jew, who will confess and believe in Christ at his death. As the Roman soldier watched the love and sacrifice of Christ on the cross, he responds in confession and ultimately gives glory to the true King Jesus by saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

Students

- Before you read Matthew 27 with your family tell them you are going to discuss your family’s emergency plans. Now is a great time to go through what your family would do in case of a fire, natural disaster, or another tragic event to make sure that everyone would be “on the same page.” A great practical resource for this can be found at www.ready.gov. Discuss preparations that need to be made, where you would go, and things you would want your kids to have an understanding about. Inform them that this is not to scare them, but simply to have a plan of action in case of an emergency, because unexpected events can happen at any moment. Share with them that things like this even happened several times throughout Scripture. Now read through Matthew 27:45-54 together.
- Talk through what it must have been like the day Christ was crucified. What would your family have done during a day where the sky turned black, an earthquake occurred, and people began rising out of graves? Can you imagine the chaos that would have taken place? This picture of turmoil sounds a lot like when Jesus will return (Matthew 24:29-44). However, there are things that took place the day Jesus died that could help us prepare for that day. Remind your family of who Jesus proved himself to be through his death and resurrection; show them the invitation to relationship that was demonstrated through the torn curtain; and remind them the necessity for each person to surrender to him as Lord, the Son of God. We do not know when, or if, we will ever experience a disaster, but we do know that the coming return of Christ is certain. Are you and your family prepared?

