

Family Worship Guide – Week 2

MEMORIZE

Matthew 4:10 – Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

READ

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

This section of the Gospel deals with the testing and temptation of Jesus by Satan in the wilderness. This is the final event before the launch of Jesus’ ministry as the long awaited Messiah. Jesus has just had the wonderful experience at his baptism of seeing the heavens opened and hearing the voice of God proclaim him as the beloved son with whom God is well pleased. Immediately Christ is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to have his commitment to the will of the Father tested.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

Jesus triumphs over temptation and shows himself as the true Israel by succeeding in the wilderness where Israel failed. This is a perfect example of what is meant by the author of Hebrews in chapter 4. Jesus has been tempted in every way as we are; yet he never sinned. He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, as he himself suffered under the same weaknesses, yet with complete victory.

This truth has incredible implications for us. We do not have a God who is far off, who does not understand the temptations we face, but we have a God who has taken on flesh and suffered under every manner of weakness that we have, yet with complete victory. It is because of this victory and perfection that he is able to stand as a sacrifice on our behalf. This is an amazing truth for us to consider as we come out of celebrating his birth. He has come to take our weaknesses and to succeed where we could not so that he might save us from our sin.

Questions:

Why do you think that Jesus could not sin? Why is it so important that Jesus lived a perfect life?

In light of this truth, consider and discuss the power of Hebrews 4:16, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Go boldly to the throne together as a family and seek the mercy and grace that your family needs in this season.

Bottom Line: Jesus triumphs and shows himself as the true Israel and great high priest by succeeding in the wilderness where Israel failed.

SING

It is fitting for us to find joy in knowing that because of the perfect life Christ lived, he was able to stand as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. Let’s continue in worship as we sing “Christ Is Risen”, a song written by Matt Maher and Mia Fieldes in 2009.

We are reminded that as believers we are no longer slaves to sin. Christ has risen from the dead, conquering death, and bringing us new life. We are no longer darkness, but light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8). As it says in Psalm 147:7, let’s “sing hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your heart.” Indeed we have much to be thankful for. He has made us alive through Christ.

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 4:1-11, read these verses to your preschooler and afterwards you will play a game together.
- The game you will play is called “Can you Make Me Laugh?” Choose one family member to sit down and try not to laugh. Everyone else does silly things to try to get the person to laugh. Make funny faces, dance – you can do almost anything. But no tickling! If the person laughs, let someone else try. When you are ready to end the game, discuss how difficult it was not to laugh.
- Talk about what it means to be tempted and what it means to do wrong or make bad choices (sin). It means you want to do something that God does not want you to do. In the game we just played, you were tempted laugh, but sometimes you are tempted to do something you know you should not do. Remind your child that it is difficult to resist temptation, but with God’s help, we can do it.
- In the verses we just read, what did Jesus do to fight the temptation from the devil? Yes, he used God’s word, the Bible.
- So, what can you do when you are tempted? Let’s think of verses from the Bible that you could use when you are tempted. (Ephesians 6:1, Hebrews 13:16)
- Let’s pray and thank for helping us when we are tempted.

Children

- Read Matthew 4:1-11 together as a family.
- Explain to your children that one of the “takeaways” or proper responses to this passage is that we as God’s people would stand in awe and be amazed by Jesus. He succeeded at every point where Israel failed!
- Invite your children to imagine the following two scenarios:
 - First, you are in the center of a large auditorium, standing on a basketball court. Individuals have been asked to complete what is said to be a difficult shot. But each one who attempts the shot makes it on their first try. Athletes, non-athletes, senior citizens, even some very young children make the shot with ease.
 - Second, imagine you are in the same auditorium except now people are told to sink a left-handed shot from well beyond the half-court mark. Person after person steps up and fails, most of the balls don’t even go near the backboard. And then, in walks a player who can make the shot every time it’s attempted.
- What would seem more impressive? The shot in the second scenario! Why? Clearly the first shot couldn’t have been that significant if essentially anyone can pull it off every time they try. A similar truth is present in this passage of Scripture. When Jesus steps onto the scene in Matthew 4, the people of God have failed to live out their calling of perfect faith and obedience to God. They failed to trust and obey God when they were in the wilderness in Exodus and their track record has been full of missing the mark ever since.
- We too, just like Israel, miss the mark of God’s perfect righteousness (Rom 3:23). We have not honored, trusted, and worshiped God as we ought to. Every one of us has turned aside to our own way. And this makes Jesus’ perfect obedience to His Father all the more amazing and beautiful. Jesus lived the life that Israel, and you and I, could never live. He was perfect at every point. Because of this and through the power of his death and resurrection, our sin can be removed and Jesus’ perfect righteousness can be applied to us.
- Pray as a family that you would stand in awe of Jesus and see him for how great he really is and that Hh would get the worship that he is due.

Students

- As a family read Matthew 4:1-11 and pay close attention to Jesus’ responses. Discuss these responses as a family.
- What did Jesus say each time Satan tempted him? Were there any patterns? How did Jesus resist temptation? Explain that Jesus not only knew the Word, but he also knew how to apply it in the given circumstance. Knowing the Word isn’t simply a good habit. It is a strong tool when attempting to pursue Christ and flee from our sinful nature.
- God has given us his Word as a guide to know and follow after him. What are some situations where knowing God’s Word has kept you from sin? Discuss.
- Activity: Spend five minutes walking through your house and becoming acutely aware of the placement of furniture and all the things you might stumble over if you couldn’t see. Then, turn all the lights out and have your students attempt to get from one side of the house to the other. Tweak this challenge by setting up a course in which they must walk through before they finish. Do this activity multiple times and comment as your student gets better and better the more they know the course.
- The more we know, understand, and put God’s Word into practice, the better equipped we are to know, understand, and put into practice the desires of our Savior.

