

Family Worship Guide – Week 24

MEMORIZE

Matthew 24:14 – “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

READ

Read Matthew 24:14.

This verse is part of the Olivet Discourse, the last major section of teaching found in Matthew’s Gospel. A large part of this discourse is concerned with judgment to come and the conduct expected of the follower of Jesus in view of that coming judgment and the future return of the Son of Man. One distinct indicator of the nearness of Jesus’ return is that the gospel will have been proclaimed to all nations. “Nations” here means “all people groups.” Of course, we know from the Great Commission found just a few chapters later that the responsibility for proclaiming the gospel to all nations lies with Jesus’ followers. That’s us. Our longing and expectation for Jesus’ return is to be matched with our effort and eagerness to see him known by all peoples everywhere.

Questions:

What is the gospel?

How is the gospel proclaimed throughout the whole world?

Why should we want Jesus to return?

Bottom Line: Before Jesus returns, his gospel will be proclaimed to all people groups.

SING

This week’s worship song is titled “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman. This song is about the goodness of God and loving him so much that we cannot stop singing about him. His name is always on our lips, his gospel is always in our conversations, and we can’t help but proclaim his Word to those around us because he has made us new creatures. Pray as you sing that God will continually change you heart so that you will desire what he desires (for his gospel to be proclaimed to all nations) and to love whom he loves (all people). Praise him, “for all [his] goodness I will keep on singing, ten thousand reasons for my heart to find!”

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 grab a picture of your family and a photo or two from the Internet of children from different countries.
- Read Matthew 24:14a with your preschooler. Explain to your Preschooler that the word “gospel” simply means good news. It is God’s plan of good news for man because God sent his son Jesus, to be our Savior. He made a way for us to know him, to have our sins forgiven, and to live forever in heaven.
- Show your preschooler the picture of your family. Tell them that the good news for your family is that God loved you so much that he sent Jesus to be your Savior. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to save you from your sins. Jesus died on the cross because he loved us so much. He was buried and then rose again to live with God in heaven forever.
- Next, show the picture of children from a different country. Explain that the good news for these children in Africa is that God loved them so much that he sent his son Jesus to be their Savior, too. God’s plan of good news is for all the people in the whole world. God showed his great love for the people of Africa by sending his Son, Jesus, to be their Savior, too.
- Repeat the good news gospel with each picture from the different countries you chose.

- Ask your preschoolers if God’s good news just for us. No, the good news is for all the people in the entire world! Whose job is it to tell people about the good news? It’s our job. God wants us to tell people all over the world the good news of Jesus.
- Pray and thank God for the good news of Jesus, our Savior.

Children

- Read Matthew 24:14. The verse is part of the last major teaching section of Jesus in the book of Matthew. Jesus has come to Jerusalem as the humble King to suffer, die, and bring salvation for all who will believe in him. But Jesus now teaches that at his second coming, he will return as the Righteous Judge in full glory to bring judgment on all peoples.
- In this verse, Jesus says that the gospel will be proclaimed throughout the whole world. What books of the Bible make up the Gospels? What does the word “gospel” mean? (It means “good news”.) Why are these four books called the Gospels? (Because they tell the good news of Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection, which is the story of salvation.)
- Since Jesus and all his followers basically lived in one region of the world (Judea or Israel), who was Jesus trusting to spread the gospel story all over the world? His followers that he left behind, or God the Father? Actually, the answer is both. God would use that small group of followers to begin to spread the gospel to the entire Roman world in less than 100 years.
- The gospel was to be proclaimed “as a testimony to the nations.” “Nations” actually refers to all the people groups of the world (Rev. 5: 9-10).
- Notice the word “testimony” in Matthew 24:24. What is a testimony? (It’s a story.) The gospel is to be shared from one person to another until it reaches all the people groups of the entire world (Rev. 7: 9-10). Do you have a testimony, or story, that you can share with others to explain what Jesus has done in your life (if you are a Christ-follower)? Maybe work as a family over the week to help your child(ren) develop a testimony they can share with friends.
- What will happen when all nations have heard the testimony of the good news of Jesus? The end will come, and Jesus will return again.
- Why should we want Jesus to return? Because we will be with him in heaven. If you want to know what that will be like, read Revelation 21: 1-4, 22-25.
- Pray and thank God the Father that you know the Good News of his Son, Jesus. Pray that the Spirit will lead your family in ways to share the gospel with those around you and that you can help proclaim the gospel to the nations. Come, King Jesus!

Students

- Begin by looking at some information about different people groups.
 - How many people groups do you think there are in the world?
 - Answer: 16,655
 - How many of these people groups do you think are unreached?
 - Answer: 7,055
 - 42.4%
 - These numbers do not reflect individuals who have rejected the gospel. This is the number of people groups in the world who have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel.
 - How many people live on the earth?
 - Answer: 6.87 Billion
 - That means that 2.84 Billion people have never even heard the gospel.
- Why does all of this matter?
 - Read Matthew 24:14.
 - What is this verse teaching us?
 - How does this affect our lives?
 - Read through the commentary above in the *Read* section.
 - What does the context of this verse teach us?
 - Discuss the questions listed above in the *Read* section.
- How is your family taking part in the Great Commission?
 - As a family, list some ways that you can daily be a part of spreading the gospel to every nation.
 - Check out www.joshuaproject.net. This website is filled with information about unreached people groups around the world. Additionally, you can find specific ways to pray for specific people groups.

All statistics were taken from www.joshuaproject.net.

