

Family Worship Guide – Week 25

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 24:36-25:12.

This is one of the most descriptive passages regarding the final coming of Jesus and how we should live as we wait for his return. As Jesus talks about the virgins and the servant, he is speaking about those of us who wait for him to return.

Talk together about all the characteristics of the master that we see in both stories. What is Jesus trying to communicate about himself and the nature of his second coming?

Then talk about the characteristics of those who are waiting. What is Jesus trying to warn us against? What will happen if we are found not waiting for him as he has commanded?

Many people try to predict when Jesus will return, but the first verses you read are clear: it will surprise everyone. How does this effect how we live today?

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 that we can hope in?

What sticks out to you in this passage? What is your favorite part? What is your least favorite part? What part of Jesus' words bring the most joy to you?

Bottom Line: Live your life urgently and obediently in light of the glorious and sudden coming of the Lord.

SING

Who is fairest of all? Who holds all of creation in his hands? Who shines brighter than all the starry hosts? Was it King David or one of his mighty men? No. The fairest of all is our Lord Jesus Christ. Psalm 93 says, “The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty...the Lord on high is mighty.” And this is not just a temporal reign. It is eternal. He reigns from everlasting to everlasting. Who can compare with that?

The more we come to grow in the knowledge of our incomparable God, the more we find that he is bigger than our minds can imagine. He is greater than our hearts could even hope for, and he is the only one who deserves all praise and adoration. He is the One whose return we eagerly await.

As we continue in worship, let's sing together the 17th century German hymn, “Fairest Lord Jesus.”

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 find a digital clock and a clock with hands. Open your Bible to Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 25:1-12.
- Read the first scripture to your preschooler and show your child the clock. Ask your child if they know what time it is. Your child may be able to tell what time it is or they may read the numbers from the digital clock.
- Ask them if we know when Jesus will return. Jesus said that no one knows the day or time when he will return. Only God

knows. Jesus says that we need to be prepared and ready for his return, because it could happen at any moment.

- Now read the parable in Matthew 25:1-12.
- Talk to you preschooler about what it means to “be prepared.” You could give examples of packing for a vacation or studying for a Bible verse to recite to the teacher.
- In this story, Jesus gives us examples of five who were prepared and 5 who were not prepared for the bridegroom. Ask what happened to the 5 who were not prepared. Jesus wants us to be ready for his return. He wants us to be prepared. How can we be ready when he returns? We need to believe that he is the Son of God. We must ask him to forgive us of our sins. Then we can help others to be ready, too.
- Conclude by praying and thanking God for his son, Jesus, and to ask God to help your family be prepared and ready for his return.

Children

- Explain that the word "urgent" means that a situation requires attention or action right now. Ask your child(ren) to think of situations that might require a person to do something urgently. (Answers might include "a fire", "a tornado", "a nosebleed", etc.)
- Ask the child(ren) if cleaning a room or the house is urgent. (Answer will probably be "no".) Ask them if you said they could do something amazing like go to Disney World (or some place they really like) if their room was clean when you returned from the grocery store, would they act urgently or say, "We can clean it some other time"? (They would no doubt think it was urgent then.) Ask if the task of cleaning was different in the second example. (Answer will be "no".) Tell them that cleaning did not change, but the reason for cleaning did.
- Remind the child(ren) that the reason for telling the world about Jesus and the gospel is not just to have something to do when we have some free time, but so we and others can know Jesus before he returns. If our goal is to know Jesus and make sure others know him before he returns, then we will try to share the gospel urgently and obediently so we can be ready for the glorious and sudden coming of the Lord.

Students

- As a family read these passages together: Matthew 24:14, 24:42-44, 25:8-10. How are these passages similar? What are they calling us to do?
- What does the word “anticipation” mean? Define this term as a family. (*Note: Anticipation – expectant waiting*)
- Ask your student what things they anticipate most? (Birthdays, Christmas, Summer, etc.) What makes these things more important? Why these things and not others?
- Is the second coming of Christ something we anticipate, something we dread, or something we never think about? Discuss.
- As a family, are we preparing ourselves for Christ’s coming? Do we focus on God and his Word in the midst of our everyday tasks? What could we do differently to ready ourselves?
- What work has Christ assigned us to do in preparation for his Second Coming?
- Close in prayer as a family. Ask the Lord to help you be on your guard and to live a life of preparation and obedience.

