

Family Worship Guide – Week 28

MEMORIZE

2 Corinthians 4:6 – For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

READ

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7.

Every follower of Christ has a story about how they came to know and understand the gospel. Regardless of who around them had a role to play in their story, the reality is that it was God who revealed the gospel to them. It was God who blessed them with understanding and called them to faith. The apostle Paul knew this was true for himself and his co-laborers. He understood his own efforts and talents amounted to little when compared with the greatness of the gospel, yet God’s plan was to entrust that greatness, the power of God for salvation, to human vessels just like Paul, just like the Corinthian believers and just like us.

Questions:

How do we serve others for Jesus’ sake?

What does it mean for God to shine in our hearts?

How are we like jars of clay?

Bottom Line: God entrusts to Christ-followers an understanding of the gospel.

SING

Praise God for his kindness and grace in giving us an understanding of the gospel! Now we say with confidence that “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death.” Indeed, death no longer has sting or victory, “our God is not dead, he’s alive!” As you sing Matt Maher’s song “Christ Is Risen”, give thanks to God for his work of redemption in your life. May the light of the Holy Spirit in us be a beacon pointing others to Christ.

Visit our website for a link to this song: 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

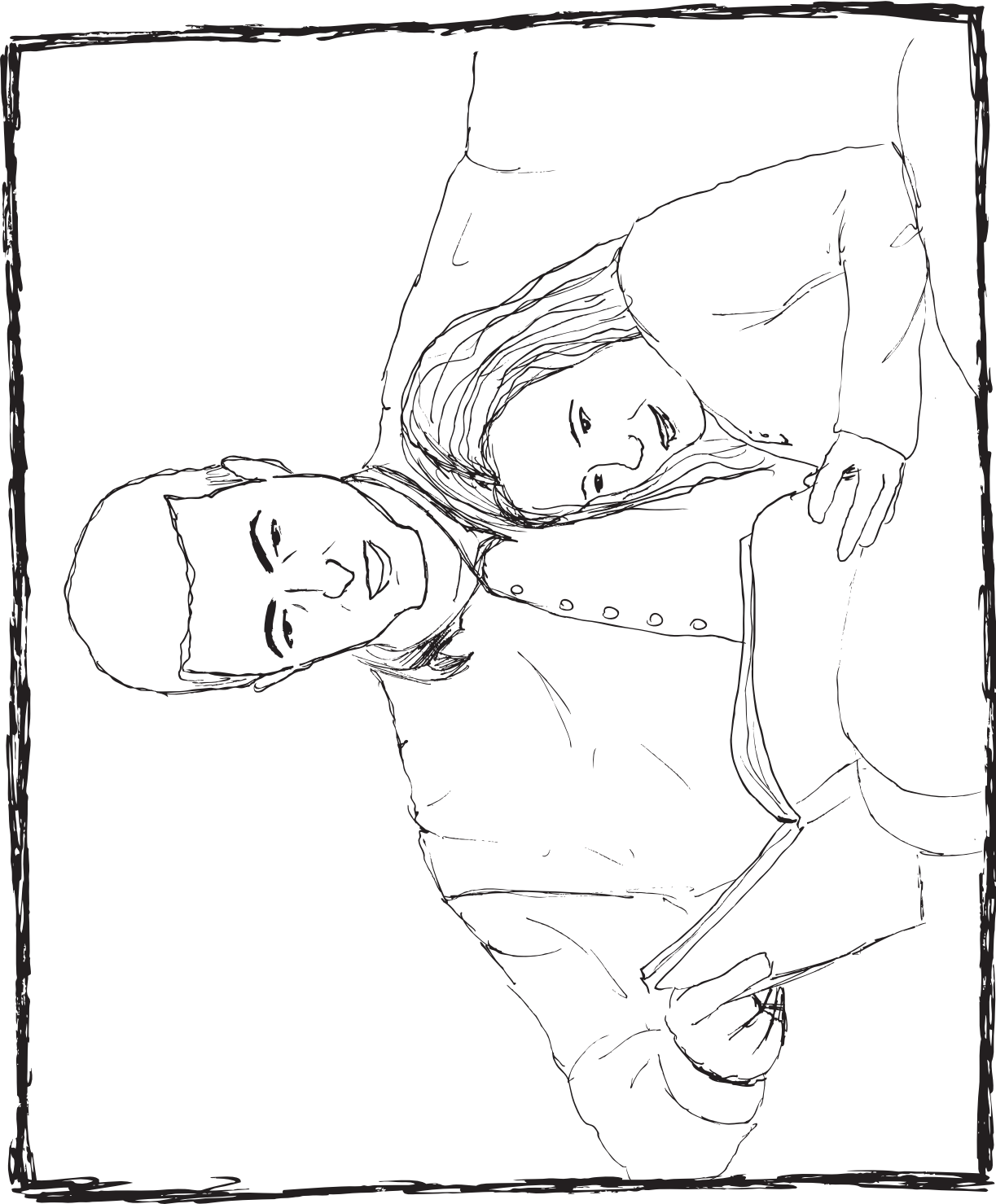
- Before you begin, hold up your Bible so that your preschooler will clearly see it. Tell your child that the Bible is God’s Word and that everything in the Bible is true.
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:6 with your preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler that God has trusted us to know the gospel. The gospel is the story of Jesus Christ. It’s the truth about Jesus’ life, teachings, and love for all people. It’s how God sent the Savior Jesus, who died on the cross for us and made a way for us to know him, to have our sins forgiven, and to live forever in heaven with him.
- Tell them you have something that is very important that you want them to do for you. You want them to hold your Bible for you. The Bible is God’s Word and it is very special. It’s very important to you and you are going to trust them to hold it and carry it for you.
- Next, place the Bible in your child’s hands. Have him or her walk around the room while carrying your Bible. Ask if they know that the Bible that they are holding is very important because it is the way to make Jesus known to everyone. It is. The Bible is the way that we can show God’s saving work to all people.
- Just like I trusted you to hold my Bible for me, God trusts all of his people to know and understand the gospel. He wants us to learn all that we can about him, so we can teach the gospel to others. When we understand the gospel, we can teach it to other people, just like I am teaching it to you. God trusts us to make Jesus known to everyone through his Word.
- Pray and thank God for the gospel. Ask God to help you and your child understand the gospel so that all people all over the world will know his name.

Children

- Materials: index cards or slips of paper with one verse from 2 Cor. 4:5-7 on each -
 - **5** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.
 - **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - **7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
- Tell your child(ren) that you are going to have a game of charades and that they will draw a card and try to act out motions to get the rest of the family to guess what is on the card. Don't reveal that the cards contain Bible verses. Your child(ren) will probably be excited about the game, but then after a card is drawn, may look confused or even upset and may say something like, "I can't do this!" or "This is too hard," or "All of this?" or "Can I have a different card?" Just calmly tell them to do their best and give it a shot.
- After they try to communicate the verse through actions, have another child draw a card and try. Afterwards stop the game and ask if it was easy to get the group to figure out the verse. Relate that if the gospel was dependent on our abilities to figure it out, it would be very confusing—sometimes it might be understood a little, but other times not at all. Explain that God has not only given us the gospel, but once our hearts are changed and his Spirit lives in us, he has also given us an understanding of it. God has entrusted Christ-followers with an understanding of the Gospel and he works within us so we can know it and share it with others.

Students

- Gather supplies
 - 1 brown paper bag (lunch size)
 - 1 candle (tea light)
 - Lighter or match
- Pray
 - Praise the Lord that he is light.
 - Offer thanksgiving to the Lord for not leaving us in darkness.
 - Ask the Lord to open the eyes of your hearts to hear and understand his Word.
- Activity
 - Place the candle inside of the bag.
 - Can you see the candle?
 - Light the candle inside of the bag.
 - Turn off the overhead lights.
 - Ask these questions:
 - Is the bag producing light?
 - What is the source of the light? Is it the bag or the candle inside of the bag?
- Teach
 - Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7.
 - Set up the context.
 - We are talking about an understanding of the gospel.
 - Paul is talking about the difference between believers and nonbelievers.
 - Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.
 - Who keeps people from seeing the light of the gospel?
 - What path are they on?
 - Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 again.
 - Who gives the understanding of the gospel?
 - Work through the *Read* section above.
 - If God gives us understanding, then what is our role?
 - Connect the Activity.
 - Read 2 Corinthians 4:7 again.
 - Think back to the bag with the candle inside of it.
 - We are the bags and God's Spirit living in us as believers is the candle.
 - God's light can shine directly through us because "what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord," in order "to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."



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