

Family Worship Guide – Week 30

MEMORIZE

Romans 8:38-39 – For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

READ

Read Romans 8:35-39.

We know from Scriptures throughout the New Testament that God's gift of his Son Jesus to provide the means of salvation was a demonstration of his love for us. When we trust Christ for that salvation we go from being children of wrath to adopted sons of God. We experience his love as we never have before. But is it possible for a Christ-follower to become separated from God's love? Paul poses this question in Romans 8:35. He means it to be somewhat rhetorical but goes on to answer it anyway. Christians may experience suffering or persecution or danger. In fact, many will, but God works even those things for the good of those he has called. There is literally nothing that can separate a Christ-follower from the love of God they find through faith in his Son Jesus.

Questions:

How do we know God loves us?

In what ways do Christians experience trouble?

Is there anything in the world that can separate Christians from God's love?

Bottom Line: Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SING

Let's continue to worship as we sing "How Firm A Foundation". We have an eternal security that is found in the firm foundation of the gospel. Because of Christ's atoning work on the cross, namely, his death and resurrection, we are reconciled to God forever. Nothing can separate us from the steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord! Praise God!

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, find a ping-pong ball and a beach ball. Then open your Bible to Romans 8:38-39.
- Read the verses to your preschooler. Bring out the ping-pong ball but keep the beach ball hidden. Bounce the ping-pong ball on the table and show it to your child. Say, "You know, I love you so much! But as much as we love each other, God's love is so much bigger. Look at this." Show your child the beach ball and bounce it up and down. Tell your child that God's love is like this big beach ball; his love is huge and goes everywhere.
- How do we know God loves us? God loves us so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, to save us. He sent his son Jesus to earth. Jesus had to die on a cross to save us from our sins (bad choices).
- God's love is deeper, bigger and better than any other kind of love. Nothing can separate us from God's love.
- God never changes. God loves you. God will always love you. Absolutely nothing can change God's love for you.
- Conclude by praying with your preschooler and thanking God for his love for us.

Children

- Review some salvation verses from Romans with your child as background for this lesson:
 - Romans 3:23 – All people have sinned.
 - Romans 5:8 – God demonstrated his love for us by sending Christ, his Son, to die for us.

- Romans 10:7 – We accept God’s gift of eternal life by faith in his Son (confess and believe to be saved).
- When we accept God’s free gift of salvation, we are no longer separated from God but adopted as sons of God and heirs with Christ.
- But is it possible for a Christ-follower to become separated from God’s love?
- Read Romans 8:35-39. Paul, the great apostle, answers this very question in these verses. Paul writes that absolutely nothing can separate a Christ-follower from the love of God that is found through faith in Christ Jesus!
- Activity: Make an opposite chart using these verses with your child(ren). Write out all the opposites that Paul lists. Ex: death-life, angels-demons, etc. Notice that both good and bad things are listed.
- Read Apostle Paul’s story in 2 Cor. 11: 16-33. Why do you think Paul made this list? Probably because Paul had a very hard life as an apostle and needed to be sure of God’s love for him.
- If none of these things can separate us from God’s love, what does that tell us about his love for us? (It’s forever, doesn’t change, etc.)
- Why is it so important to know that nothing can separate us from God’s love?
- Lastly, how do you know your parents love you? How can we be sure God loves us this much? (He sent Jesus.)
- Fun Question: If God’s love were a shape, what would it be? (Note: Parents, you may get very creative answers on this, so listen!)
- Pray and thank God for his amazing love. Thank God that we can trust his Word and know that nothing can ever separate us from His love in Christ Jesus.

Students

- The promise this passage carries is huge in light of our imperfection and the greatness of salvation. After you read Romans 8:35-39 together, ask your student if they have ever done anything they thought might not be forgiven. This would be a great moment to share anything in your own life that has occurred along these lines as well. After a time of sharing read Romans 8:1 and 8:38-39 once more. If your student has experienced salvation, this is a great reassurance that God does not give up on his children. If they have not surrendered to Christ, this is a great moment to share the truth of this promise.
- A great illustration to use is super glue. Glue two objects together and ask your student what holds the items together. The glue is obviously what keeps the two items connected. Though glue at some time will fail, our relationship with God is held together by something much, much greater. Read John 10:28-30 together. The glue of our relationship with God is Christ, and there is no circumstance that can disconnect us from him. This is why salvation is through Christ alone, and why our relationship is inseparable. Be sure to spend some time in prayer thanking God for his love and the provision of his Son Jesus.

