

Family Worship Guide – Week 31

MEMORIZE

Galatians 5:16 – But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

READ

Read Galatians 5:16-25.

In this passage, Paul addresses the same struggle he writes about in Romans 7:14-25: the war that rages within Christ-followers between the desires of the Spirit and the desires of the flesh. Of course, it is only by relying on the work of Christ in our lives that we can overcome our sin. Since he has set us free from sin, we are no longer overcome by those desires. However, it is important to know what they are and recognize them in our own lives so that we might repent and beware of them in the future. It is also vital that while we starve those sinful wants we feed the desires of the Spirit in our lives and see him produce fruit through our walk with him.

Questions:

Why do Christ-followers still struggle with sin?

What are the desires or works of “the flesh?”

What are the desires or fruit of the Spirit?

Bottom Line: Live your life according to what the Spirit wants and not what you want.

SING

Over 200 years ago, 22-year-old pastor Robert Robinson penned the words to “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” This gospel-filled text was soon set to the melody that so many are familiar with today.

As you continue in worship, sing “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” Find joy in the truth that God’s grace is great, and his mercies will never cease. Look to the day when, at last, we are freed from sinning, the day when we will see him face to face.

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, gather some examples of different fruits for your child to see (e.g. Apple, strawberry, orange). They could be pictures or actual fruit.
- Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your preschooler.
- Tell your child that God made many different kinds of fruits and all of them look and feel different too. Show them the examples of the different fruits. Explain that some fruits are crunchy like the apple. Others are soft and squishy like the strawberry, and the orange has a harder coating on the outside but is soft on the inside. Ask if they can see how these fruits look different and even taste different.
- Explain to your preschooler that there is another fruit that God wants to give us that is also very different. It’s in the Bible verse we just read and it is called the fruit of the Spirit. As Christians, Jesus gives us his Spirit and his Spirit stays with us. When we grow as Christians and learn more and more about Jesus, then we can become more and more like Jesus too.
- Remember, that Jesus was very different from man because Jesus was also God. God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to live as a man. He came to show us the way to know him and live forever with him. So, just like the fruit that is so different, Jesus is very different too. Jesus is holy. He never sinned. Jesus is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, kindness and self-control. Jesus loves us and his love for us is amazing. He loves us even when we mess up and make bad choices.

- So, when we choose to follow Jesus, and turn away from sin and bad choices we become different too. When we choose Jesus, he will give us the fruit of his Spirit. He will help us to love others, to be patient, joyful, gentle, and kind. He will help us to be faithful and to have self-control.
- God wants us to be different and have these gifts so that we can love others like he loves us. We can't do it by ourselves. We need God. We need God's Spirit to help us.
- Pray and thank God for the gift of his Spirit.

Children

- Materials: pen and notepad.
- Tell child(ren) that you are going to play "restaurant" and that you will be the server and take the order. Take out your pen and notepad and ask each child what they want to drink and eat. When you are writing down the order, instead of putting what they say, put your favorite drinks and foods in place of theirs on the pad.
- After you finish taking the orders tell them you will read back the orders. As you read all your favorites and none of the things they asked for, notice the reactions of the children. Ask them if you got the order right. Answers will probably be something like "no, you did not write down what I wanted at all", "I think those are things you wanted", or "I don't like those things so why didn't you write down what I told you?" Ask them if you were a good server if you did not bring them the things they asked for. They will probably say "no". Agree that a good server listens to a person's order and writes it down so they can get the right food and drink for the customer.
- Relate that Christ-followers are supposed serve Christ, which means that they listen to what he says and do it. We listen to the Spirit because this is how Jesus speaks to us. Walking by the Spirit means we listen and obey the Spirit. If we disobey, we are giving in to the selfish desires of the flesh (sinning). As Christ-followers we don't want sin to rule us anymore and we choose to live according to what the Spirit wants.
- Take time to pray and thank God for the gift of his Spirit, asking him to help you live according to his Word.

Students

- In preparation for this week find two of the same kind of plant (or cut flowers in vases) and set them out so that your family sees them daily. For several days prior to your family worship time, water one plant diligently and ignore the other.
- At the start of your worship time, draw attention to the two plants and discuss how the one that was nurtured, fed, and invested in, thrived while the other wilted. The same goes with us. If we feed the Spirit, spending time in prayer and reading the Word, we grow in maturity in Christ. If we feed our flesh, doing what we want and ignoring the Lord, our sin nature will grow and become larger instead. As both natures mature, their need for their preferred fuel increases. What is the fuel for our fleshy nature? What is the fuel of our Spirit?
- Think about it. How do people get to the point of being nasty and awful? They surely don't start out that way as babies. No, they regularly feed on the patterns and desires of this world. Romans 12:2 reminds us not to conform to the patterns of this world but rather to be transformed, growing in Christ and putting your mind on Godliness. Parents – take time to talk openly with your students about how you do this.
- As a family, read Romans 8:1-17. Which side is growing in your life? The Spirit or the flesh? Which side are you feeding?
 - What does this passage say is in store for those who live according to the flesh?
 - What about those who live according to the spirit?

