

Family Worship Guide – Week 32

MEMORIZE

Revelation 1:8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

READ

Read Revelation 1.

John opens the book of Revelation with an excellent preview of what the rest of the book is about. Verses 5-7 give the best glimpse:

“...from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.”

Here we see a few important points. First, this whole book is from Jesus. This makes it very important for us to read, because it is full of the words of Jesus after he ascended into heaven. This makes it very unique for us out of all the Scriptures. Secondly, we see that the gospel is central to this book’s content. The truth that Jesus has loved us, freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us a kingdom of priests is the foundational truth that holds the whole letter together. Finally, he is coming again. This great and powerful truth is talked about thoroughly in this book and should move us to fear and unspeakable joy.

We will close with a quote about the book of Revelation and the journey we are about to begin as a church:

“...the purpose of the book of Revelation is to comfort the militant Church in its struggle against the forces of evil. It is full of help and comfort for persecuted and suffering Christians. To them is given the assurance that God sees their tears (17; 21:4); their prayers are influential in world affairs (8:3-4) and their death is precious in His sight. Their final victory is assured (15:2); their blood will be avenged (19:2); their Christ lives and reigns forever and forever. He governs the world in the interest of his Church (5:7-8). He is coming again to take his people to himself in ‘the marriage supper of the Lamb’ and to live with them for ever in a rejuvenated universe (21:22).”

~William Hendriksen, “More Than Conquerors”

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: Christ and his Church will have victory over Satan and his helpers.

SING

This week our worship song is “How Great Is Your Faithfulness” by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman. It is a reminder that God is faithful to his promises, and that he has vowed to redeem his children who will one day spend eternity with him. Because of his “unfailing justice [and] unfading grace” Christ will have victory over Satan and our sin. We will find our ultimate joy in heaven with him, and together “the saints [will] all sing great is your faithfulness”. Rejoice today as you sing, because God is trustworthy and faithful. Praise him in anticipation of the coming culmination of his victory when Christ returns. Praise to the King!

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 open you Bible to Revelation 1:8. You will need a set of alphabet flash cards, or you can print letters of the alphabet on index cards.
- Play a game with your preschooler by mixing up the cards and then have them help you put them back in order. Look at the first letter. Look at the last letter. Now read the verse from Revelation to your preschooler
- Tell them the Bible says that God is the Alpha and the Omega. He is like the "A" or the beginning of the alphabet and he is like the "Z", or the end of the alphabet. God was here in the beginning and will be here until the end. God created the world. He is sovereign which means he is the boss of all things. God is always with us.
- Conclude your time with you child by praying and thanking God for being in control and being with us at all times.

Children

- Materials needed: sheet of paper and a writing utensil.
- Explain that the book of Revelation may be a little confusing, but it is an encouraging message from Jesus to his people because he knows that following him is not easy.
- Read Revelation 1:4-8. What phrase is repeated at the beginning and the end of that passage? (*Who is and who was and who is to come*)
- Verse 8 tells us to whom this phrase refers to. Who is it? (*God*)
- Activity: Play a matching game. On a sheet of paper make two columns. In the right column write the phrases "Who is", "Who was", and "Who is to come" down the side. In the left column write the phrases "Future", "Present/Now", and "Past" down the side. Show the paper to your child(ren) and lead him/her/them to draw a line from the phrase in the right column to its meaning in the left column, discussing each as necessary.
- What does it mean that God was in the past, is in the present, and is in the future? He has and always will exist; that's what it means for God to be eternal.
- What do these verses tell us that Jesus did for his people? (*He loved them, freed them from sin by his death, and made them a kingdom of priests, i.e. the Church.*)
- Because of the work Jesus did, those who repent of sin and place their trust in Jesus are able to live with God eternally, i.e. forever.
- Jesus promised that he would return to take his people to heaven to live with God (see John 14:1-3) and judge evil. He says it again in Rev. 1:7.
- How can this encourage us when other people are mean to us because we follow Jesus with our lives?
- Pray and praise God that we can trust him to be faithful to his promise to return for us and to defeat evil.

Students

- Imagine that it is time for class officer elections at school.
 - You are thinking about running for an office, but you just can't seem to make a decision.
 - Then, you are told that if you run, you are definitely going to win.
 - Would that change your actions?
 - Would that change your decisions?
 - Would you approach the election differently if you already knew what the outcome was going to be?
 - When we know what is going to happen, we naturally respond to that knowledge.
- The book of Revelation tells us what will happen on this earth in future days.
- Read Revelation 1 together as a family.
 - Why is the book of Revelation different than other books in the Bible?
 - Does Revelation apply to our lives? How?
 - Who was given the task of writing down the contents of Revelation?
 - Who is the book of Revelation about? (Hint: see verse 1)
- Read verses 5-7 again.
 - Read through the content found in the "Read" section above.
 - Who gave us the book of Revelation?
 - Verses 5-6 give us the foundation of this book.

- What are these verses talking about?
- How does this affect you and me?
- This is a description of the Jesus we know all about based on all of the books in the New Testament.
- Now read verse 7 again.
 - This is an image of Jesus that we have not yet seen on this earth.
 - When you read this, what do you picture in your mind?
 - How would you describe Jesus based on reading this verse?
 - He is powerful.
 - He has all authority.
 - He is God.
 - He is real.
 - He is returning.
- Read verse 8 again.
 - This is the memory verse for this week. What does it teach us?
 - Jesus identifies himself as God.
 - He is the beginning and the end.
 - He is the Creator and he is also the goal that all of history is pushing toward.
- What about right now?
 - If Revelation is a book about things that have not yet taken place, how does it affect our lives right now?
 - If we already know the truth of the things that are going to take place in the future, wouldn't it change the way we act today?

