

## Family Worship Guide – Week 33

### MEMORIZE

Revelation 1:17-18 – When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

### READ

Read Revelation 1:12-18.

Towards the beginning of John’s vision, which he records in Revelation, he saw Jesus in his glorified state. John had to turn to metaphors, or word-pictures, to try to describe what he saw. This vision was awesome in the truest sense of the word. John fell down at the feet of his Lord and Savior who told him not to fear. John had no reason to be afraid of the final days, nor does any other follower of Christ. Jesus died to redeem those who have faith in him and rose again to demonstrate his power over sin and death. John, in his vision, saw what Jesus looked like as this conqueror over evil. Because he died but now lives forevermore, those who believe in him will join him in eternal life.

#### Questions:

What picture of Jesus do you get from John’s description?  
Why do you suppose John fell at Jesus’ feet “as though dead”?  
Why, according to Jesus’ words, did John have nothing to fear?

**Bottom Line:** Because Jesus has conquered sin and death, his followers have nothing to fear.

### SING

This week we will sing together “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” written by Martin Luther. As we just read, what John saw could only have been the result of a great and mighty God. In this hymn Martin Luther describes God as just that. He depicts the devil and forces of evil and points out that, if we were left to our own strength, we would be doomed. “If we in our own strength confide our striving would be losing.” Luther then reminds us, however, that our God is greater than any other and is victorious over evil.

As we sing, let us rejoice knowing that, though we face trials, our God will be victorious. We serve a King who reigns forever. Because he is victorious, we have nothing to fear.

“Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.  
The body they may kill. God’s truth abideth still.  
His kingdom is Forever!”

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](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

- Materials needed: paper, small box, and markers or crayons.
- Open your Bible to Revelation 1:17-18 and read it to your pre-schooler.
- Talk with your preschooler about some things that scare them, e.g. the dark, bugs, getting lost, storms, riding a bike, someone dying, etc.
- Write them down or draw pictures on a sheet of paper. Decorate a box and write the words “Fears I give to Jesus” on the outside of the box.

- The Bible says to give our fears to Jesus because he cares for us. Let's put the fears that we put on paper in the box. We need to let Jesus help us with those fears. He cares about those things and we do not need to worry. Jesus is bigger than any of our troubles and he cares for us.
- He is all-powerful, loving, merciful and gracious. We have nothing to fear because he is in control. Long ago God promised to send a Savior to his people – someone who would take away our sins. He sent Jesus from heaven to earth to save us from our sin/bad choices. He is bigger and more powerful than anything that might scare us.
- Let's pray and thank God for Jesus and for taking care of us!

### Children

- Materials needed: poster board, sketchpad, or whiteboard; markers, crayons, or dry-erase markers.
- Read Revelation 1:12-18.
- In this passage, the Apostle John is having a vision of Jesus, the Son of Man, who has been glorified after the resurrection. John is told to record this vision in the Book of Revelation and send it to seven churches in Asia.
- John goes into much detail to describe his vision of Jesus, yet this is certainly a strange image to us. John was trying to use images, or word-pictures, that were familiar to his readers, but truly no human description could even begin to depict such a heavenly, majestic scene. Work together as a family and try to draw out your idea of John's vision on a large poster board, sketchpad, or white board.
- Jesus is now glorified in Heaven, and it will be awesome to see him one day.
- What does John do when he sees Jesus, the Son of Man, in his glory? He falls down in total fear. Why? Because John has seen the holiness of God as compared to his unholiness and sin.
- What does Jesus say and do? He touches John and tells him not to fear.
- Why does Jesus tell John he has nothing to fear? Because Jesus died, is alive forevermore, and has the keys of Death & Hades.
- Jesus basically explains the gospel to John. Jesus tells John that he is God (the first and the last), the true living God, who died and rose again. Jesus reminds John that he has conquered Death and Satan, which means his followers have nothing to fear.
- This really is the good news of the gospel for all who believe in Christ Jesus. Because Jesus died and rose again, he conquered death and sin forever. We will spend eternity with Christ in heaven. Knowing this, we have nothing to fear now or in the future.
- Ask your child what they are most afraid of. Explain how Christ died to overcome all our fears. (2 Tim. 1:7) Pray with your child if they are struggling with a specific fear.
- Finally, pray and thank God the Heavenly Father that through Christ's death and resurrection, Jesus has overcome death and sin. Thank God that we truly have nothing to fear.

### Students

- Introduction.
  - Think about an epic moment in your life when you saw, heard, or experienced something for the first time.
    - Maybe you rode a roller coaster for the first time?
    - Maybe you went to a concert for the first time?
    - Maybe you saw your first 3D movie?
  - Sometimes, when we see, hear, or experience something that is new or outside of the norm, we are faced with a moment when our expectations are shattered.
  - What we are accustomed to is completely changed in that moment because something is different, something is new.
- Teaching.
  - In Revelation 1:12-18, John sees and experiences something new.
  - Read Revelation 1:12-18.
    - What did John see?
    - Who is the "son of man"?
    - What description does John give of the "son of man"?
  - Based on Scripture, we know that the "son of man" is Jesus (Mark 14:61-62).
    - Think back to the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). How is Jesus described (Ex. baby in a manger; healing the sick; dying on a cross; etc.)?
    - How is this picture John sees of Jesus different than the picture given of Jesus in the 4 Gospels?

- Application.
  - Each time we experience something new or beyond what our expectations are accustomed to, we are forced to respond.
  - What is John's response to this vision of Jesus?
    - Why do you think John fell at Jesus' feet "as though dead"?
    - What would your response be to this new vision of Jesus?
  - Read the commentary above in the *Read* section.
  - What did Jesus tell John?
    - What does this teach us about Jesus?
    - How should we respond to Jesus after knowing this?

