

Family Worship Guide – Week 34

MEMORIZE

Revelation 3:19 – “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.”

READ

Read Revelation 3:14-22.

Jesus’ words to the church at Laodicea are hard. He comes to them and sees that they are lukewarm, their lives lacking the fruit of true salvation. They have become hardened in heart, believing themselves to be rich and safe and in need of nothing but they are spiritually wretched, poor, blind, and naked. Jesus’ words are direct. First, He warns them: if you continue in this way, you will be cast away from me. Jesus is calling His followers to consider carefully whether they are truly His. Secondly, He calls them to repent. He offers to them freedom from shame and guilt in Himself. He offers them new life if only they will acknowledge their helpless condition and run to Him. His words in summary help us understand His intent: “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.” Repentance will be a sign that we are His. Lack of repentance will surely be a sign that we are not.

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: To those who find themselves to be lukewarm in the sight of Christ: repent and run to the One who is faithful and true.

SING

This week as we continue in worship, let’s sing “Great is the Lord” by Starfield. Psalm 145:1-3 says, “I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.” As you sing think about the greatness of God. He is clothed in splendor and might. No circumstance could ever change or hinder his glorious worth. Let’s celebrate these truths together.

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 your Bible to Revelation 3:19.
- Think of a rule in your home that you expect your child to obey, ex. no hitting, do not lie, no yelling, put away your toys when asked.
- Talk to your child about the rule and explain that you expect them to obey the rule because you love them and God has given you this job as their parent. If a rule is broken there are consequences for disobeying the rule. There would be a punishment for this bad choice.
- Read the verse to your preschooler. God wants us to follow His rules and to obey him too. He loves us! Just like the punishment we give you for making bad choices, God will punish His people who choose to disobey him.
- We need help to obey God’s rules. We need God’s help! He is all-powerful, loving, merciful and gracious. He is in control. God made a promise to His people that He would send a Savior, someone who would take away our sins and help us make good choices. He kept that promise when He sent His son, Jesus. Jesus came from Heaven to earth to show us God’s perfect plan for us. Even when the people didn’t deserve it and made bad choices, God still provided a way for

them by sending Jesus. With Jesus, God's promises are always true. God is faithful and keeps his promises!

- Conclude by praying and thanking God for his faithfulness.

Children

- Materials: cups or water bottles filled with warm water; cups or water bottles filled with ice water.
- Go for a family walk, hike, or bike ride. When everyone is back home (or along the way), ask child(ren) if they are ready for a drink of water. Give them cups or water bottles of warm water to drink. Notice how they look when they drink the warm water. Most likely they will make a face. Ask them if it is refreshing or if they would rather have some cold water. They will probably want to turn away from the warm water and choose the cup or bottle of cold ice water.
- Ask child(ren) why the warm water was not desirable. Answers may include the following: "It did not make my mouth cool off", "It was not very refreshing", or "Warm water is not good when you are thirsty."
- Tell the child(ren) that we are like the unpleasant lukewarm water when we do not refresh others with the good news about Jesus Christ. If we are not obeying Jesus' command to go make disciples, we are disobeying Him. God wants us to know when we are disobedient because He loves us and wants us to repent or turn away from our sin in the same way the kids turned away from drinking the warm water.
- God wants us to turn to Him for forgiveness just like your child(ren) turned toward the cold water. He is the One who is faithful and true and He renews our hearts like the cold water refreshed their thirsty throats. He makes it possible to give this "living" water to others.

Students

- Before walking through this passage with your students visit a hardware store or an online supplier and purchase some pH test strips (also known as litmus paper). These are relatively inexpensive and can usually be purchased for less than \$5. Once you have the strips find several liquid items around your house (or have your students pick some out) and have them make guesses as to which items will be the most/least acidic.
- Once the activity is completed ask your students to explain how they were able to tell which items were the most acidic (the pH paper gave the indication by changing color). Ask them the question, "Is there a way in which we can observe our own hearts and actions in a way indicates the depth of our relationship with Christ, much like we did the acidity of these liquids?" Follow by reading Revelation 3:14-22.
- After reading the passage draw your student's attention to verses 15 and 16. Ask, "Why would God desire that someone was 'hot' or 'cold' in regard to their relationship with Him?" Share with them that God is reminding the church at Laodicea that in either case, hot or cold, someone would be able to see their need for Christ and God's forgiveness. Those who believe they have no need for a Savior, but have no relationship with God through Christ are in the most dangerous position, because they believe they are fine on their own.
- So, the question remains, "How do I know if I am in this position of being lukewarm?!" The answer is in verse 19 (read this verse again together). Someone who genuinely has a love for God also sees their incredible need for Him. When confronted with sin in their lives they are zealously repentant.
- Those God loves He confronts when sin is present in their lives, and those who love Him turn from that sin when confronted. So, the next question to pose to your students is, "What has your attitude toward God's discipline in your life been like lately?" Have you seen your need for His forgiveness, and humbly turned from sin? Or, have you been stubborn, feeling that you are good enough not needing to change when He has confronted you?
- In all of this remind your students that these believers were not alone, and neither are your kids. That if there is something they have been struggling with, offer to pray for them and with them, and talk about whether there is anything you can do to help them. Also, be genuine and humble enough to share an area in your life that your student(s) could pray for as well.

