

Family Worship Guide – Week 39

MEMORIZE

Revelation 12:11 – And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

READ

Read Revelation 12:7-12.

It is easy to get caught up in all of the fantastic imagery contained in Revelation and miss out on some of the greater truths contained therein. This is certainly true for the texts we are studying this week in Revelation 12-14. However, for this time with our families we have the opportunity to see a picture of the outcome of the gospel in the middle of Revelation 12. These verses present a clear picture of Satan's defeat. This defeat is illustrated as the result of a great heavenly battle between angelic armies and the forces surrounding a great dragon. But verse eleven speaks directly to the source of Satan's defeat: the blood of Jesus Christ. It is by His sacrifice that the great enemy of God has been defeated once and for all. Though battles may rage on in this world, we as followers of Christ can live confidently knowing that the war is already won.

Questions:

Who is the dragon in these verses?

Who is the Lamb?

How does the blood of the Lamb lead to the dragon's defeat?

Bottom Line: Jesus' sacrifice conquered Satan once and for all.

SING

As we continue to worship through music let's praise God for Jesus who is the incarnate Word of God. This week our family worship song is 'Cornerstone' by Hillsong, which reminds us that Christ is our Lord, our Rock, and our Cornerstone. His Word is absolutely true and therefore we can trust Him with every facet our lives as our Sovereign Lord who has conquered sin, death, and Satan through His suffering on the Cross and His triumphant resurrection from the grave. It is for this reason that He is worthy of our praise and adoration. Let's declare together that our hope is in "Christ alone, Cornerstone!"

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 12:7-12 and prepare to play the game "Hot Potato." You will need an item (such as a ball, book or toy) to serve as the "hot potato" and a radio or iPod for playing music.
- Explain to your child that the item is "hot" and talk about some things that are hot. Hand your child the "potato" and encourage him or her to pretend that it is HOT and to catch and throw it as quickly as they can.
- Now, you all need to stand or sit in a circle, then start the music and say, "Go". Begin to toss the potato around the circle, passing to the player next to you. Do not skip players.
- Then stop the music. At this point, the person who is holding the potato is "out."
- Continue until there is one person left. He or she is the winner.
- At the end of the game, read Revelation 12:11 and remind your child that God has power over everything. There is nothing that God cannot do. We played a game and had a winner at the end of the game. Did we know who would win the game before it started? No, but God knows. He knows everything. He knows who you are and he knows the winner of every game. He knows what you are doing when you are alone and he knows what you need even before you ask.

There is nothing too difficult for God to understand, nothing so secret that He doesn't know. God sees all things, hears all things and knows all things. He can help you with anything! God is so good!

- Now, explain to your preschooler that the Bible tells us that God sent his son, Jesus to help us too. God sent Jesus to be our help.
- When God sent Jesus from heaven to earth to die on the cross for our sins, He sent us help. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, Satan lost and Jesus made a way for God to forgive us of our sins/bad choices. That's good news! God made a way for us to be saved from our sins and live in heaven with Him.
- Close with a prayer thanking God for Jesus and for all he's done for us.

Children

- Materials: paper, pencils, markers or crayons, a Bible.
 - Have your child draw a picture of the great battle in the passage (Revelation 12:7-12). You may want to draw a picture as well.
 - As they are drawing, review the passage. Ask if they can explain what is going on in this battle. Who is the enemy? The dragon, which represents Satan. Who is Satan fighting? God and his people. Who is the lamb? Jesus.
 - When they are finished drawing, continue with the remainder of the lesson, and you will come back to the drawings at the end.
 - Ask them who wins this battle. You may want to reread verse 10. Explain that God wins in the end by defeating Satan.
 - See if your child can quote the memory verse (verse 11) or you can read the verse out loud. Ask them what this verse says about how God wins. Make sure they understand that Satan is conquered because of Christ's work on the cross. Remind them that it is the blood of the lamb—Jesus—that brings victory to those who put their faith in him.
 - Remind your child of the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament and explain that they were a temporary solution to the problem of sin. Those sacrifices had to be repeated over and over because they were not able to fully pay the penalty for sin (which is death.) Until Jesus died there was no permanent payment for sin.
 - Explain that in verse 11 we learn about followers of Christ who love God so much they are willing to live for him and follow him, even if it meant they would have to die for him. Ask your child why they were willing to die. Make sure that they understand that because Jesus conquered death, these followers didn't have to fear death.
 - Tell your child that all Christians can have this same confidence and hope in Jesus—we don't have anything to fear, no matter what may be going on in the world around us, no matter what difficult situation we find ourselves in. Because Jesus died on our behalf and paid for sin, we don't have anything to fear, not even death.
 - Remind your child that this good news is the Gospel.
 - Take a black marker and write over each drawing the words "The Gospel." Explain that this passage about this great battle reminds us of the good news of the Gospel—that Jesus conquered death when he died on the cross and rose again and he made a way for us to have a right relationship with God.
 - You may want to have your child hang the picture in their room or on the fridge as a reminder of the hope of the Gospel that we see in Revelation 12:7-12.
- Spend some time with your child praying and thanking God that the blood of the Lamb conquered sin and death.

Students

- Begin by praying together as a family.
- Read Revelation 12:7-12.
- Discuss the "Read" and "Questions" sections above.
- Have you ever watched a movie where the hero was in danger? Did you sit on the edge of your seat wondering if he would make it out safely? What happened the next time you watched that same movie since you knew the ending?
 - If we know how something will end, then it changes how we view it.
- What do these verses say about Satan's end?
- Since you are constantly in a battle with Satan and the flesh, how does this change how you view temptation?
 - This struggle is only temporary. We do not have to be disheartened.
- Jesus has not only conquered Satan, but he has conquered sin. Read Romans 8:1-4.
 - Because Jesus has defeated Satan, he empowers us to defeat sin in our lives.
- What are sins that you are struggling with and are having trouble defeating?
 - Read Romans 8:10-11.
 - The same power that will defeat Satan once and for all is given to you to defeat sin in your life.
- How can you live your daily life in remembrance of Christ's blood and sacrifice?
 - Christians no longer have to stand accused by Satan. Christ has set us free from guilt and sin. We can now live a righteous life by setting our minds on the Spirit instead of the flesh.

