

Family Worship Guide – Week 40

MEMORIZE

Revelation 16:7– And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!”

READ

Read Revelation 15.

In this chapter we see God getting ready to pour out His last series of judgments on the earth, specifically on those who have rejected Him and refused to turn from their sins. Although this is a terrible time, it is also an event that brings worship from God’s people. Reread 15:3-4.

Why do you think the people of God are worshipping Him for His judgments? Does this seem strange? Often we focus on worshipping God for His goodness, love, grace, and mercy towards people. But we must understand that in order for God to be good, He must oppose evil with all His power. In this case, the peoples of the earth are identified as evil because they continue in rebellion against God and refuse to turn away from their sins. God brings justice to them and punishes them as they deserve. This great act of power brings worship from God’s people, as His justice and wrath against evil is just as glorious as His love and mercy.

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 God’s Word brings the most joy to you?

Bottom Line: God is glorified in justice as He brings awesome wrath for the sin of men and women.

SING

This week’s reading reveals some heavy truths about God, His justice, and His wrath. As believers, we have come out from under God’s wrath and into the beautiful light of His mercy and forgiveness. But this was not of our own doing, nor could it ever have been. It was solely the work of Christ for us because He loved us. Praise Him today and rejoice as you sing the lyrics from this week’s worship song ‘All I have is Christ.’ “And I beheld God’s love displayed. You suffered in my place. You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is You. Hallelujah! All I have is Christ!”

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 16:7. Get a pencil and piece of paper and draw a large heart on the paper.
- Read the verse to your preschooler.
- Have your child explain to you what happens when they disobey. Are there consequences? Do they get punished? Then have them tell you what sin is. It is basically disobeying God. As a result there are consequences. This is bad news.
- What are some sins that we do? (List them on the inside of the heart as you go.) Look how these sins fill up the heart. There is no room for God. In fact, God cannot be near sin because he is holy. That means He is completely perfect. There is one thing that can never be in Heaven and that is sin.
- The good news is that God loved you and me so much he sent his only Son, Jesus, to earth to pay for our sin. Jesus willingly came down, was born as a baby, grew up into a man and died on the cross to pay for our sins. He can erase our sins and that is the best news of all. (Now begin to erase the sins from inside the heart)
- Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus and for forgiving us of our sins.

Children

- Read Revelation 15. This passage begins the final judgments of God to all peoples on the earth who have rejected God and refused to turn from sin. In verse 1, it says that now, “the wrath of God is finished.”
- In Revelation 6:10, the saints who were killed for their faith in Christ asked God, “O Sovereign God, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” In Rev. 15, God answers with a resounding, “Now!”
- As we read in this chapter about the wrath of God, we must remember some central parts of God’s character:
 - He is holy: God can’t look on sin or be with sin (so we are separated from God)
 - God is just: God must punish sin (we all deserve death and hell)
 - God is love: God knows we all sin, so he sent Jesus to die in our place and pay the just penalty for our sins (we can be saved and forgiven of our sins through belief and faith in Christ/ have eternal life in heaven with God)
- Reread Revelation 15: 3-4. These verses show a multitude in heaven singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Why should it be a song named for these two specifically? (God bought salvation to his people through Moses & Christ.)
- Do you remember the story of Moses? How did God show Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He was more powerful than their many gods? (He sent the 10 plagues.) Yes, God sent judgments or plagues on them. God gave Pharaoh 10 chances to let His people go free. God was very loving and merciful, but finally God sent the death angel. Was that fair for God to kill all the firstborn of Egypt? Yes, because God was showing that He was also just. He had told the Pharaoh that he would punish the Egyptians if they didn’t obey, so God had to keep his word. Also, this showed the Egyptians that the Hebrew God was the only true God and brought him great worship from His people.
- This also happens in Revelation 15 after God has mercifully given people many changes to turn from sin, yet they refuse.
- Reread Revelation 16:5 & 7. As God acts to judge evil and save his people, He is worshipped again.
- Imagine this. You are playing a soccer game. One kid on the opposing team continues to foul you and other members of your team, but the referees are only giving him an occasional warning. You are trying very hard not to also play dirty or to get angry. The other team is winning because this kid is playing unfairly. In the third period, the bully injures one of your players, but he is only given a yellow card. You can’t believe that he is still in the game. He scores again. Your team continues to play in a way that honors Christ, but it is really hard. Finally, in the fourth period, the kid is given a red card and removed from the game. How do you feel? You and your team probably rejoice. Why? Because justice has occurred. This kid was playing unfairly, breaking the rules, hurting others, and he should have been removed from the game. In a soccer game, a player probably wouldn’t have so many chances, but with a loving, merciful God, when the stakes are heaven and hell, he would. But one day, the saints will rejoice when justice prevails and evil is removed from the earth.

Students

- What does it mean to be “good”? Can you think of examples of things or people that are good? We usually think of something positive. Something that makes us feel happy. If we are thinking about a good person, then we probably think of someone that we agree with their actions and decisions, and they are probably a nice, kind person.
- Do we ever talk about God being good? Yes! The Bible says that God and all his ways are good. (Psalm 18:30; 145:17)
- Read Revelation 15.
 - What are judgments/plagues?
 - Who is God bringing his judgments on?
 - These judgments come because of God’s wrath (vs. 1 & 7).
 - God’s wrath exists because of sin.
 - Why is God’s wrath brought upon these people?
 - So let’s think about it, if God is good in everything he does, how is it good that he brings his judgments on all of these people? (Parents: At this point, allow this question to be rhetorical and keep going.)
- What is the strange thing that happens at the same time?
 - Reread vs. 3-4.
 - Read through the second paragraph in the *Read* section above.
 - We cannot try to understand God’s goodness in the typical way we do everything else.
 - Think about superhero movies.
 - It’s always good when they battle and the bad guy loses and the good guy wins.
 - It’s always good when evil is punished and taken away.
 - On a much grander scale, God is doing the same thing.
 - He is bringing his holy wrath against evil.
 - He is punishing those who live lives in rebellion against him.

- God is completely just and right in what he does.
- Even these actions of bringing terrible plagues and judgments on these people are part of God's goodness.
- Why are God's people worshiping him?
 - Because he has conquered.
 - The "song of Moses" (verses 3-4) is a song of praise to God for his victory.
 - They are praising God as a warrior against their enemies.
 - Because he is just.
 - Read the lyrics of the "song of the Lamb" in verses 3-4.
- They are praising God for his great redemption from evil.

