

Family Worship Guide – Week 43

MEMORIZE

Revelation 20:12 – And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

READ

Read Revelation 20:11-15.

These verses present a picture of the final judgment of Christ. Throughout Scripture, this judgment is foretold and promised. We know that a day will come when everyone, the living and the dead, will stand before Christ and face His holy, righteous, just judgment. We all are sinners and have committed acts that should result in us being cast into the “lake of fire,” a picture of eternal punishment. However, those of us who have trusted Jesus Christ for our salvation will, instead, find our names written in His book of life and will, as a result, reign with Him forever and ever.

Questions:

Who is it that sits on the throne to judge all humankind?

What is the lake of fire?

How does a person know if their name is written in the Book of Life?

Bottom Line: All men and women from throughout all history will one day be judged by Jesus Christ.

SING

Let us sing together ‘How Deep the Father's Love For Us’ as we continue our time of worship. What a glorious reality it is that, if we have put our faith in Christ, we will one day live for the rest of eternity in the sweet presence of God. How can sinful man dwell in the presence of a holy God? The answer is found in the Gospel. It was at the Cross that the demand's of God's justice were met and his wrath was satisfied, as mercy poured out from heaven and even the worst of sinners could draw near to the Lord and be declared righteous before God. As the song says,

It was my sin that left Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Oh what grace that the Father would send to us his Son to be our Savior, the propitiation for our sins. Let us ponder in our hearts,

Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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, you will need to find a blank piece of paper, a pencil, and your Bible.
- Read Revelation 20:12 to your preschooler.

- Now, show your preschooler the clean, white paper. Tell them that the clean, white paper reminds me of God’s holiness. There is not one speck of dirt or sin on His character. He is different from everyone else. He is full of truth. He has never told a lie. He is full of wisdom. He never makes a mistake. He is full of goodness. He never does anything He is sorry for later. He never has to apologize and say, ‘I was wrong.’ He is the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth. He is loving, merciful and gracious.
- Now talk about the pencil. Explain that we use a pencil to write down important things we want to remember or to write down words for a book or letter. God is writing a book in heaven. Most importantly, He has a Book of Life in which He writes the names of those who have believed in His Son, Jesus Christ, and have followed Him.
- God loves us so much and He is so good! He sent his son, Jesus, from heaven to earth to save us from our sins/bad choices. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. Jesus made a way for us to live with God forever in heaven and to have our names written in the Book of Life.
- Let’s pray and thank God for loving us and providing a way for us to live in heaven with Him.

Children

- Items needed: Fold a piece of paper or cardstock in half and write the title “Book of Life” on the front. Have paper and pencils or crayons on hand.
- Sit down with your child and ask them to write down three examples of times when they received punishment for disobedience (at home or school).
- Ask them to circle one from their list and discuss it with you. Ask them what they did that led to that punishment. Ask them if they think it was fair that they were punished. Why or why not?
- Ask them to think about what would happen if there were no consequences for breaking the rules. Do they think punishment is fair? Why or why not?
- Explain that we have rules in the classroom, rules at home, and laws in our country that must be followed. When these rules and laws are broken there are negative consequences.
- Tell your child that just as you read in Revelation 20, there will be a day when everyone will face judgment from God because everyone is guilty of sin. Remind them that the consequence for sin is death, which is eternal separation from God.
- Point out that in the scripture passage from Revelation 20, it is God who sits on the throne to judge everyone. Make sure your child understands that God is just and because he is just, he has to punish sin. God would not be just or good if he allowed sin to go unpunished. You may want to refer back to the beginning activity as an example.
- Ask them if they know what the lake of fire in Revelation 20 represents.
- Explain that the lake of fire is a place of eternal separation from God and this is the ultimate punishment for sin.
- Ask your child to explain what this passage says about the book of life. Make sure they understand that within the book of life are written all the names of those who put their faith in Christ.
- Explain that those who don’t repent and put faith in Jesus don’t have their names in the book of life, and they will face eternal separation from God.
- Explain that judgment before God is scary if we haven’t confessed our sin and turned from it and put our faith in Christ. If someone has done this, Jesus already took the penalty for their sin on himself at the cross, so when they stand before God, he doesn’t see their sin because Jesus has forgiven them.
- Open the “Book of Life” you made earlier and ask your child to write down the process that leads to God writing their name in the book of life:
 - Acknowledge and confess sin to God
 - Turn from sin
 - Put your faith in Jesus to save you
- Emphasize that the only way for anyone to have their name written in the book of life is through Jesus Christ.
- If your child has already put their faith in Christ, it is good to reaffirm what that means and how faith in Christ changes everything. If they haven’t put their faith in Christ, take some time reinforcing what it means to follow Christ and pray with them that God will open their eyes and help them turn from sin and trust him.

Students

- Introduction
 - Have you ever watched a TV show or movie and seen a court scene?
 - There is a judge, the people who are involved in the case, and possibly a jury.
 - In every single case, there is a prosecutor and a defendant.
 - The prosecutor is the one who is bringing criminal charges against someone.
 - The defendant is the one who is being charged with a crime.

- What is the result of criminal court cases?
 - A decision is made.
 - The defender is ruled either guilty or innocent.
- Discussion.
 - In Revelation 20, John describes a court scene.
 - Read Revelation 20:11-15.
 - Read through the devotional section at the beginning of the guide.
 - Who is it that sits on the throne to judge all humankind?
 - Who will be judged?
 - Whose names are written in the Book of Life?
 - How does a person know if their name is written in the Book of Life?
 - If your name is not found in the Book of Life, what happens?
 - What is the lake of fire?
 - Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be judged for their sins.
 - That means they will be punished.
 - That means they will be found guilty.
 - That means they will spend eternity in the lake of fire.
 - Those whose names are written in the Book of Life will not be judged for their sins and will not be punished.
 - They have been redeemed by Jesus' death on the cross for their sins.
 - They will spend eternity in heaven.
 - Do all people sin? (Romans 3:23)
 - When the judgment of Revelation 20 takes place, every person will either be punished for their sins or will be found innocent because they have been forgiven through Jesus Christ.
 - No one will get to choose which one they would like after they get there.
 - The Book of Life will be completed when we get there.
 - Is your name in it?

