

Family Worship Guide – Week 45

MEMORIZE

Revelation 22:20 – He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

READ

Read Revelation 22:20.

The study of Revelation can be a lifelong task that we will understand only once God’s work described in it is completed, and even then our understanding will quite possibly be limited. However, our experience with this rich text is only a fraction of what it must have been like for John to actually see the vision he records. Yet our response to all we read and study cannot be anything other than what John’s own response was. If we only understand but one thing from the entire book, it must be that Jesus is coming back in glory and victory. Therefore, what more can we say than, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

Questions:

Who is the one “who testifies to these things”?

What does it mean for Jesus to promise that He is coming soon?

Why should we pray for Jesus to come?

Bottom Line: Our response to all of Revelation should echo John’s: Come, Lord Jesus!

SING

For believers, there is great joy in the return of Christ. He is the fulfillment of every hope and the satisfaction of every desire. Hebrews 9:28 says that God’s people are *eagerly* waiting for their Savior.

As we continue in worship, let us praise our returning King by singing “Revelation Song.” Written in 2004 by Jennie Lee Riddle, this piece was born out of a desire to see the bride of Christ adoring her bridegroom. The song has given the church a fresh way to exalt the character of Jesus and to express our longing for His second coming. The chorus reads:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
With all creation I sing praise to the King of Kings
You are my everything, and I will adore You

May our hearts be full of adoration for our God and anticipation of His return!

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

- Open your Bible to Revelation 22:20 and read the verse to your preschooler.
- Now stand silently before your child and look at your watch. Pretend you are waiting for something to happen. Wait for your child to ask you what you are waiting for. Then say that you were waiting for them to ask that. Do you know in the verse we just read that we are waiting for something very exciting to happen? We are waiting for God’s big promise to come true. We are waiting for Jesus to come back to earth again!
- Tell your preschooler that God’s Word promises that Jesus is coming back to earth. When He comes again, He will be coming to reign and rule for all eternity. You can be sure of God’s promise. He IS coming again!

- God loves us so much and He is so good! God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. Jesus made a way for us to live with Him forever. How wonderful it is that the Lord gives us a hope and that we can look forward to a being with Him.
- Conclude by praying and thanking God for His promises.

Children

- Supplies: Candle and matches, Lamp without shade, darkness
- Sit together in the darkness and light the candle.
- Explain that Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a manger to a poor carpenter and his young wife. Shepherds and wise men were drawn to him as signs and wonders appeared in the skies around Bethlehem. Somehow Jesus' light managed to break through the darkness of a bleak and cold world, much like this candle is breaking through the darkness in the room.
- In his ministry, Jesus healed the sick and spoke of love, hope, and promises for the future. Tell the story of Jesus' triumphant arrival into Jerusalem at Passover. Remind the children the disciples believed Jesus would be crowned King and would lead a great army to free Israel. But instead Jesus was arrested, whipped, beaten, and nailed to a cross where he hung in the sun until he died.
- Blow out the candle.
- Talk about the mystery of God's ways. Sometimes it looks like we are in horrible circumstances. Sometimes our lives are really hard. But because of Jesus, if we are in a rough spot or know family or friends who are really struggling, we know that it is not the end of the story. Why? When Jesus died, some people thought he was dead and the story was over. But Christians know that Christ rose from the grave and still lives today. JESUS IS ALIVE. He is in heaven and someday He is coming back. Only this time, in much bigger form – in complete glory and victory.
- Turn on the lamp and hold it up.
- Read Revelation 22:20.
- The book of Revelation tells us to believe in the light of Christ in good times and bad. When things get bad, we can trust that God has a bigger plan. We must believe Christ is coming back and trust that God is in control of everything even as we wait for Jesus to return.
- Talk about ways you can each shine the bright light of Christ in a dark world. Thank God for the promise that this life is not the end of the story. Pray for Jesus to come soon.

Students

- Introduction
 - Do you guys think it is important to plan for things?
 - Think about college for instance.
 - Do your teachers remind you that middle and high school are preparing you for college?
 - Do you study to get better grades so that you can get into a better school?
 - Do you prepare for the ACT in hopes of getting a higher score so that you can get a scholarship?
 - You can't just wake up on the last day of your senior year of high school and decide that you are going to go to Harvard in the fall when you have not put any effort toward reaching that goal.
 - Our actions are determined by what our goals are.
 - If we are planning to go to college, we work hard to meet the requirements.
 - If we want to play professional football, we practice hard.
 - If we want to be in good shape, we exercise.
 - The same is true of our faith.
 - If we are looking for the day that Jesus returns, our actions now will be evidence of that.
- Discussion
 - Read Revelation 22:6-21 and the *Read* section above.
 - Let's look at vs. 20.
 - Who is the one "who testifies to these things"?
 - What promise does Jesus make?
 - What is John's response?
 - John's desire for Jesus' return is what he is looking and hoping for.
 - John had the privilege of seeing this incredible vision God gave.
 - Seeing this vision allowed him to see firsthand why God is better.
 - John knows that the end is worth it.

- Look back at Revelation 22:7.
 - Who is speaking?
 - What is the command?
 - What is the reward?
- Read Revelation 22:11 again.
 - Our actions are determined by unbelief or faith.
 - If we are looking, praying, and hoping for Christ's return, will that affect the way we live? Will our actions/lifestyle/behaviors be altered?
- What is driving your actions?
- How can you as a family work together to keep the words of this book?

