

## Family Worship Guide – Week 47

### READ

This week, we will be studying Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

In this prayer, Paul makes two major requests. First, he prays that God might strengthen us by his Spirit in our inner being (3:16). We need the power of the Holy Spirit as we try to live the Christian life. We cannot do it in our own strength.

Second, Paul prays that God would help us to understand how much God loves us (3:18-19). He is not just praying that we might know about God's love, but that we might know God's love and that we might experience God's love.

Now, what is really amazing is that the more we know God's love, the more we are overwhelmed by it. We realize that God loves those who trust in Christ with an infinite (unending) love. This is a love that surpasses knowledge (3:19).

As God strengthens us with his Spirit and helps us to know his love, he fills us with all his fullness (3:19). That means he changes us to make us like Jesus. This is how God gets glory in our lives and in our church.

#### Questions:

Fathers – in the original Greek, verse 15 literally says that every “fatherhood” derives its name from God the Father. The implication of this is that human fatherhood is meant to be a reflection of the Fatherhood of God. Are you reflecting the Fatherhood of God to your children? How can you better do this?

Spend some time in prayer for your family and the faith family here at Brook Hills. Pray that God would strengthen us by his Spirit, and pray that he would help us to know his love, so that we might be filled to all the fullness of God and bring him eternal glory.

**Bottom Line:** Pray that God would strengthen us by his Spirit and help us to understand how much he loves us, so that we might bring him great glory.

### PRAY

South East Asia is home to countries with the largest number of unreached people groups in the world. These people groups are majority Muslim and the gospel is forbidden in most of the areas. Due to security we cannot tell you exactly where our partners are working. As you read the description of the people and place, let this be a reminder to us of the real danger that exists and be evermore diligent to pray for our brothers and sisters and for the gospel to go forward where it has never been before.

This island in South East Asia is described as a tropical paradise like no other, with its great beauty, lush rain forests, cascading rivers, exotic flora and fauna, crater lakes and shimmering beaches. It is a land rich in natural resources and a variety of the world's most exotic wildlife live there. The island, however, has been disturbed for centuries by volcanoes and earthquakes, which make the environment hostile. Among the peoples of this island there can also be found great poverty and need. Home to the largest unevangelized island on earth, South East Asia includes most of the largest Muslim people groups in the world. While there has been some fruitful mission activity in the past, the majority Muslim peoples have been largely neglected. This island in South East Asia is home to 75 people groups, 52 of which are classified as “unreached” with the gospel. The island and its Muslim unreached peoples by and large have also been bypassed in the history of mission, which classifies them not only as “unreached” but “unengaged” with no active work currently engaging the people groups in this area. Ken, Jonja and their family lead teams of people to engage the unreached on this island. There is so much work to be done, but day-by-day their team labors to engage individuals who need to hear the gospel. Because of the sensitive environment, their team builds relationships with the people they are living among. They look for people of peace to share the gospel with. Their goal is to have many disciples of Christ and for a house church to be birthed among the unreached of their island. This task is difficult, so let us pray this week for their team and for those who have never heard the gospel.

## SING

This week our family worship song is ‘Stronger’ by Hillsong. As we’ve studied Ephesians 3 this week, God encourages his Bride through the words of Paul that we have been given the very Spirit of God to dwell within us, strengthening us with power to have faith which leads to the love of Christ consuming our hearts. So let’s praise God together from the depths of our soul for this beautiful reality. “There is truth that sets me free, Jesus Christ who lives in me!” Through him, our sin has been conquered, the grave has been defeated and the very presence of God is living in us! Let this truth be the heartbeat of the Church as we take this good news to the ends of earth!

## MEMORIZE

Ephesians 3:16 – “...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being...”

## 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 Ephesians 3:18-19 and read the verses to your preschooler.
- Preschoolers love to sing their favorite songs and you can make up hand motions to help them remember the words.
- Sing the following songs with your preschooler:

#### ***Jesus Loves Even Me***

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,  
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.  
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,  
Jesus loves even me

#### ***Jesus Loves Me***

Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong.  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
The Bible tells me so.

- Conclude by re-reading Ephesians 3:18-19 and explain to your child that in these verses from the Bible, Paul is speaking a prayer for the people in his church. He wanted the people to remember who God was, and how much God loved them. God loves us so much that he sent his son, Jesus, to earth to save us. The words in the songs we sang remind us of God’s love too.

### Children

- Materials Needed: sewing thread in 4 segments 10-12 inches long each.
- Show one piece of thread to the child(ren). Tell them it will represent a person. Tell them that thread is a useful and good thing. You can sew clothes or bedspreads or even pictures with it and make something very beautiful. People have many talents, and when God created Adam and Eve, he said his creation was good.
- Take one piece of thread and firmly hold each side so that you can twist it and break it. Tell the child(ren) that unfortunately thread is not very thick so by itself it can easily be broken. Broken thread is not very useful, and if you have threads that break in your clothes, then your buttons come off, your seams have holes in them, or your hems fall which is not good. Clothes are not useful or beautiful when that happens.
- Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, all people are born with a sinful nature. Just like that thread was so easily broken, people are easily broken because of sin. They may want to do something useful and beautiful with their lives, but sin keeps that from happening.
- Add the remaining pieces of thread to the single piece. Twist them together to make a rope. Hold each side the way you

did with the single thread and try to twist and break the "rope". The threads should not break as before.

- Tell the child(ren) that the "rope" with 5 threads is similar to what happens in a person's life when he or she puts faith in Jesus Christ. The person is joined with Christ (2nd thread) and made right with God (3rd thread) and the Holy Spirit lives inside them (4th thread). God strengthens the person with his power so they can understand God's great love for them and allow God to do something useful and beautiful with their life to bring Him great glory.

### Students

- As you prepare for this week pray that your faith and that of your students will be faith that is represented by these verses.
- For your time together with you family explain that instead of Bible study you are going to take on a project together. Have them get tools, gloves etc. Find a large tree, preferably on your property. Tell your students that you have decided to move the tree to a new location. More than likely there will push back from them. Defend your decision and allow them to voice all the reasons the tree should stay. Use arguments they would normally ask if they wanted you to do something. "Why not? Ms. Jones' family moved their tree two weeks ago. It's not too cold. Besides, you will warm up when we start moving it." Hopefully they will bring up the obvious things, "It's too big! What about the roots? It will take too long!" (Alternate option – remain inside in the living room while looking at the tree through the window.)
- When discussions begin to break down. Read Ephesians 3:14-21 to them.
- Tell them that your desire is for your faith (both yours and theirs) to be as strong as a tree.
- Ask them if they have seen a commercial for [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). (If they haven't, you can find one on YouTube.) The actors mention clicking on a leaf and then another leaf. In the future what, will their children find about them as do their research? Will they be men and women of faith who did amazing things in the Glory of Christ?
- Talk about how to deepen your roots, strengthen your faith, and how to branch out in ministry to others. Discuss how your life as a believer should be evidence of and point others to the glory of God. Pray as a family asking God to show you more of who he is, that you may understand more of what it means for him to love us, and that he will strengthen your faith day by day so that your life will bring glory to God.

## Prayer

### Lives/Church

This week we have been studying Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. In light of this prayer, ask God to strengthen the body of Christ here at Brook Hills by his Spirit in our inner being. Pray that Christ might dwell in our hearts through faith and that we might be rooted and grounded in love. Pray that God might bring us to a greater realization and experience of his great love for us, and that this realization might cause us to be filled to all the fullness of God. Finally, thank God that he is able to do far more than we could ever ask or think, and pray that he might receive glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.

### Local

**Local Church:** Oak Mountain Presbyterian - Bob Flahart

**Focus:** Grace House - a ministry in Fairfield that helps girls who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected find the love of Christ in a safe environment. The girls enjoy dinner around the table, a wholesome loving home, learning about God and engaging in an array of activities that are designed to enhance and enrich their lives.

**Monday:** Pray for the board and staff of Grace House to be wise in how they administer the opportunity of ministry that God has given them.

**Tuesday:** Pray for God to open doors for young women in crisis to find their way to Grace House.

**Wednesday:** Pray for believers to join the ministry as volunteers to serve alongside the staff at Grace House ([www.grace-house.org](http://www.grace-house.org)).

**Thursday:** Pray for the girls to understand the gospel, trust a Loving Father with His plan for redemption for their lives, and trust Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

**Friday:** Pray for God to grow the young women in the care of Grace House in godliness, faith and love.

**Saturday:** Pray for emotional, physical and spiritual healing for the young women in their care.

### Global

**Short Term Teams:** There are no short term trips this week.

**Partner:** Ken and Jonja J., Brook Hills' partners serving among unreached peoples in South East Asia.

**Monday:** Ken and Jonja lead a team whose task is to engage people of peace and share the gospel with them. Pray for wisdom as Ken leads the team and for God to give a clear vision for their work.

**Tuesday:** Pray for God to prepare the hearts and minds of men and women in Southeast Asia to receive the message of the gospel.

**Wednesday:** Ken and Jonja work on the largest "least evangelized" island in the world. Of the 75 people groups, 52 of them have never heard the gospel. Pray for many to hear the gospel and become disciples of Christ.

**Thursday:** Pray for God to strengthen gospel witness when Ken's team and the other believers they are united with face persecution.

**Friday:** Pray for God to strengthen Ken and Jonja's marriage as they serve together to make disciples of all nations.

**Saturday:** There is great need for more workers to help engage unreached peoples and share the gospel. Pray for workers from Brook Hills to go and help spread the gospel and establish the church where it does not exist.

## Scripture Memory

"...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being..." Ephesians 3:16

## Stronger

by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

There is Love  
That came for us  
Humbled to a sinner's cross  
You broke my shame and sinfulness  
You rose again victorious

Faithfulness none can deny  
Through the storm  
And through the fire  
There is truth that sets me free  
Jesus Christ who lives in me

You are stronger  
You are stronger  
Sin is broken  
You have saved me  
It is written  
Christ is risen  
Jesus You are Lord of all

No beginning and no end  
You're my hope and my defence  
You came to seek and save the lost  
You paid it all upon the cross

So let Your Name be lifted higher  
Be lifted higher  
Be lifted higher

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