

## Family Worship Guide – Week 50

### MEMORIZE

Luke 21:36 – "But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

### READ

Read Luke 21:10-38.

Focus especially as a family on verses 36-38. Talk together about how these verses are true in your own family. Are they a reality in your prayer lives? Does the urgency of His return affect your praying? Talk together about what life is like for most churches around the world that undergo persecution for following Christ. Talk together about how you might view these verses differently if you faced the same challenges. Is it possible that changes could be made even now in the way your family prays in light of this text? Spend time together in prayer to this end.

#### 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:** We must be ever vigilant and pray with diligence and faithfulness.

### SING

In 1739, 32-year-old, Charles Wesley wrote a Christmas hymn that began:

*Hark, how all the welkin rings,  
"Glory to the King of Kings;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
Universal nature say,  
"Christ the Lord is born to-day!"*

Over a decade later one of Charles' good friends George Whitefield made a few changes to the beautiful lyric. It was published in a collection of hymns in 1753 as "Hark the Herald Angel Sing," and in 1840, it was fitted to a melody written by Felix Mendelssohn – the melody that we are so familiar with today. For years it has served as a staple in the Church around the Christmas season.

As we continue in worship, let's sing the timeless hymn, "Hark the Herald Angel Sing," and celebrate the great joy that has come to all people through Christ the Lord.

Visit our website for a link to this song: [www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://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 Luke 21:36 and read the scripture to your preschooler.
- One of the easiest ways to help preschoolers understand prayer and its importance in our lives is by modeling prayer

times with them. Show them that simple conversations with God are the best and these prayers can happen at anytime and at any place. The best way for children to hear how to pray and when to pray is for them to hear their parents praying in simple conversations to God.

- Play the “I can pray anywhere, anytime” game with your child. We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about everything in our lives because God is always listening. Say, “I’m thinking of a place I can pray when I’m lying down at night. Where is that place?” Ask several questions like these. “I’m thinking of a place I can pray when I’m hungry and getting ready to eat. Where is that place?” When you end the game, emphasize that God wants us to pray continually so that we will have the strength and help we need for everyday. Say, “God knows everything! God is all-powerful. When we pray to Him, He hears us. Prayer is our way of talking to God and we should talk to God continually throughout the day and night.”
- Let’s pray now and thank God for hearing our prayers.

### Children

- Supplies needed: paper, pencil and Bible.
- As a family talk about how to pray. Throughout scripture we see prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. A simple acronym can be used to help children remember these forms of prayer: A.C.T.S. Write this acronym out on a sheet of paper. Then using the explanations below talk about what each type of prayer is. Be sure to emphasize that this is not a special formula that we must follow in prayer but rather tips for helping us understand prayer. Spend some time then praying the A.C.T.S way for the persecuted church.
- A - **Adoration:** Praising God for who He is. Telling God good things about Himself.
  - Ask your child to tell you what they know about God. (For example: He is the Creator, He is all powerful, He is holy, He knows everything, He is everywhere, He is loving, He is forgiving, He is the Healer, etc.) Explain to your child this is not a “Thank you” time, but a “praise Him for who He is” time. Lead your child to address Him as Dear God, Dear Father, Our Father in Heaven, Oh Lord, etc. and then lead them to say, “We praise you because you are.....” Make sure your child understands the ACTS method of praying is just a way to help them learn how to pray.
- C - **Confession:** Confessing your sins, telling God what you have done wrong and asking Him to forgive you.
  - Ask your child to tell you some things they have done over the past two days that would make God unhappy. Lead them in a prayer of confession, letting them confess a sin and ask for forgiveness.
- T - **Thanksgiving:** Thanking God for all the things He has given and done for you.
  - Ask your child to tell you things they are thankful for such as family, friends, food, shelter, answered prayer, fun things to play with, God’s Word, Jesus, etc. Lead them in offering up a prayer of thanksgiving.
- S - **Supplication:** Petition and Intercession. This means praying for yourself and praying for others.
  - Petition: Praying for yourself.
  - Intercession: Praying for others.
- Ask your child to talk about their needs. Lead them to talk about the needs of others. Lead them in praying a prayer of supplication.

### Students

- Before reading the passage together discuss your family members’ reflex reactions to different situations. You might draw attention to a particular phobia or knee-jerk reaction a family member has that you are all aware of, or a funny childish trick that you or they would play on one another. For our family with two older boys and a daughter it is the “force” trick. My sons would claim, “Daddy, I can use the force!” This simply meant that they were going to make something move without physically touching it. Of course, I would reply, “Really?! Show me!” They would then proceed to lick their hand and pretend that they were going to touch my face! Of course, I would move and then they would proudly proclaim, “See! I told you!” After discussing (or maybe even using this illustration) remind them that we all have different automatic reactions to things that happen around us. “Did you know that God has reflex responses He wants us to have as well?” Now read the passage together.
- Say, “In this passage Jesus draws attention to two “reflex” responses we should have to situations and circumstances to the fallen world. Did you see them?” If they did not, have them read through verses 34-36. “How did Jesus say we were to respond to difficult circumstances? (Answer: stay awake and pray.) Jesus told us that the way in which we are to respond to a broken world that feels like it is closing in around us and others, is to be alert and pray. Why do you think that’s important? Prayer is powerful (James 5:16), but why pray if it is not going to directly change the problem(s) we face? Why does God want us to pray?” Point out that through even the most difficult of circumstances (like the ones in this passage), God’s desire is to walk with us through it. Our relationship with Him is important, and He wants us to draw closer to Him. “Do you generally respond this way when you hear or see sin or tragedy around you? Why or why not?”
- Sometimes we have automatic reflex-reactions to things, and sometimes they are developed over time. This response in

prayer is something your family can encourage one another in. Now spend some intentional time sharing and praying for difficult times your family or others you know are facing. You might even decide as a family to pray together for specific issues or people for each day of this week. If you have a hard time thinking of them, this would be a great lesson in staying “awake!”

