

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 1

MEMORIZE

Psalm 78:4 – We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

READ

Read Psalm 78:1-8.

God’s intention was for the glory of His longsuffering, mercy and power to be told, to be celebrated, and to be shared with the next generation as well as everyone else – just as the previous generation declared the glorious deeds and marvelous works of God to the current generation. This was God’s sovereign plan for preserving the accounts of His glorious and wondrous deeds throughout Israel’s history; they were to be preserved as fathers passed them on to their children, who were in turn tasked with sharing them with their children and the world around them. And in doing so the succeeding generations (even those yet to be born) would have knowledge of God, confidence in God, and live in obedience to God by keeping His commandments (v. 6-8), all to His glory!

Questions:

According to verses 5-6, what is God’s aim and ultimate purpose for instructing the next generation?

How can your family pass on the gospel to children and students in non-Christian families?

What are some ways your family can pass on God’s Word to children and students within our faith family?

Bottom Line: We are all tasked with sharing God’s Story with one another and the whole world.

SING

It is the duty and delight of God’s people to pass on their faith to future generations. What greater joy is there than leading others to love the Lord, honor His commands, and know His faithfulness? As God’s Word is taught from generation to generation, disciples are made and His name is glorified.

As we sing “How Great is Your Faithfulness”, let us remember God’s saving work in our own lives and throughout history. Written by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin in 2009, this song praises the Lord for being true to His Word. Just as He never failed our forefathers, God will never fail us or our children. The chorus declares:

The Heavens ring

The saints all sing, “Great is Your faithfulness!”

From age to age

We will proclaim, “Great is Your faithfulness! How great is Your faithfulness!”

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, find a passage of scripture with one of your favorite Bible stories to read. Gather some paper and a pen or pencil too.
- Explain to your child that you are going to read them one of your favorite stories from God’s Word, the Bible. Read the Bible story you have selected with your child.
- Tell your preschooler that everything in the Bible is true.
- Explain to your preschooler that you love telling them about the stories from God’s Word because when we hear these stories, we can see and learn about God’s power and His faithfulness to us, His people.

- Tell your child that God sent Jesus from Heaven to Earth to save us from our sins/bad choices. He sent the Savior, Jesus for all men! Because God loved us, His children, He sent His only Son to save us and we get to share this good news with other people.
- God wants us to tell other people the stories of the Bible and His plan of Salvation. That's why as your parents, we teach you the stories from God's Word, the Bible. Did you know that God wants you to share these stories with your friends too?
- Read Psalm 78:4 with your preschooler. Grab your paper and pencil and ask your child to think of one person they can think of to share a story from the Bible with. Together, write down the name of the person on a piece of paper.
- Pray and ask God to help you and your child have an opportunity to share God's Word with that person.

Children

- Materials needed: Old family pictures/scrapbooks/albums or books showing pictures from times in late 1800's or early 1900's.
- Have your child(ren) get comfortable on the sofa and tell them you want to have a story time.
- Tell your child(ren) that you want them to tell you stories about what life was like for their great-great-grandparents—their names and family history and where they lived at the very least. Most likely, they will answer that they don't know who they were or anything about them. You may not either. Remind your child(ren) that the generation of their great-great-grandparents was only four generations before them—around 100 years—and yet it is not information they know about. Relate how others can only know information if someone shares it with them.
- Israel was the nation God delivered out of Egypt and revealed His glory to, and yet they completely stopped celebrating Passover because they did not tell their children about what God had done. We, as followers of Jesus Christ, know about Him because someone told us, so we have been given the task of sharing God's story with one another and the whole world to ensure that future generations know Him and hear the message of salvation.
- Spend some time talking to grandparents or looking at old pictures to find out more about your family history or how people lived in past generations.

Students

- Have your family sit at the dinner table or on the floor in a circle. Explain to everyone that you are about to play a game called "storyteller". One person begins telling a story and then, on a signal from a parent, the next family member moves the story in a new direction by starting with "unfortunately..." and then continues the story. At each signal (approximately 15 seconds), the next student takes over the story with "fortunately...". The pattern continues.
- Who is the best storyteller you know? What is it about the way they tell stories that sticks out? What causes others to pay attention?
- Have each family member recall a story from the Word. Have them retell the story as if no one in the family had ever heard it.
- Why is it important to convey stories of the past? Discuss how one might take a story from the Word tell it in such a way that others may walk away glorifying God.
- Read Psalm 78:1-8 again. Pray and ask the Lord to help you know and recall the stories of the Bible. Ask Him to help you be a storyteller that lifts high the gospel of Christ. Ask Him to help you learn to better share your own story of how He brought you from death to life.