

## Family Worship Guide – Week 47

### READ

- This week we are studying 1 Thessalonians and how it explains the Day of the Lord. The concept of the Day of the Lord was introduced in the Old Testament as the prophets proclaimed the future judgment when God's wrath will come on those unfaithful to Him.
- Review Amos 5:18-20
  - Here, Amos addresses Israel, God's people, and questions their desire to see the Day of the Lord.
  - It would be a day of darkness for them though they expected light, like disaster heaped upon disaster.
  - The Day of the Lord, which had been their hope, would be their destruction because of their unfaithfulness to God.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10
  - Paul encourages the Christians in Thessalonica because they already know what he is telling them, although they evidently need a reminder.
  - He reminds them that for non-believers, the Day of the Lord will be as unexpected and unwelcomed as a thief coming in the night.
  - Followers of Christ are not covered in darkness and will not be surprised at the Day of the Lord.
  - When Paul refers to sleep and drunkenness in darkness, he is describing the unaware and undisciplined state of those caught in sin.
  - He encourages Christians to be ready for rather than fear the Day of the Lord. They should be prepared with faith, love and hope for salvation.

The Bottom Line: Christ's followers do not fear the Day of the Lord but greet it with joy, because Christ has destined them for salvation.

Questions:

Do you ever think about the second coming of Jesus or the Day of the Lord?

What kinds of situations turn your thoughts to Jesus' second coming?

Could your wonderings ever be described as worries? What might make you worry about Christ's return?

Amos spoke to people who anticipated the Day of the Lord when they shouldn't and Paul wrote to people who maybe worried without cause. Where do you find certainty for yourself when you think about the Jesus' return?

Do you find yourself doubting though you know you shouldn't?

What is God's clear plan for Christians on the Day of the Lord? (1Thes. 5:9-10)

### PRAY

- Read *Window on the World*, pg. 174-175 *Uzbeks* (Uzbekistan)
- Use Prayer Card

### SING

- Use lyric sheet and mp3 download of "Christ Forever"
- In the text this week we are reminded of the future hope we have in Christ. For this reason, we chose "Christ Forever" to accompany what we study. As Christ followers, we know that our lives on this earth are temporary. However, we also know that we belong to a King and a Kingdom that have no end. In this song we sing about the Gospel: about how Christ saves us and about what is in store for us, who have received this salvation. "Christ Forever" is based loosely on a selection called "Heaven Desired" from *The Valley of Vision*, a collection of Puritan prayers and poems. We recommend using this selection to supplement this song in your family worship time this week.

### MEMORIZE

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

## 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 activities and questions can replace or serve as a supplement to the questions under the “Read” section on Page 1. Remember that 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 (Birth-Kindergarten)

- Talk to your child about how it feels to say goodbye to someone they love. Examples: when you leave them in class, or mom or dad leave for work, or when a friend or grandparent goes home after a visit.
- Talk with them also about how waiting is difficult. Play waiting games, such as closing eyes and guessing when one minute has elapsed.
- Then remind your child that Jesus came to this earth as a baby, grew up and died on the cross so we all could be saved. He is the King and one day He will come back to earth. Jesus said that He would return one day so that we could actually see Him.
- Just like we are waiting on a friend or grandparent to come back to our house again, we are waiting on Jesus to return and we don’t know when that day will be. We want to make sure we are living lives that are pleasing to God when He returns. That way, we can be excited about the fact that Jesus is returning and know His joy while we wait for that day.

### Children (Grades 1-5)

- In our reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10, Paul is giving a warning and offering hope to believers there. He is explaining to the people what the Day of the Lord will be like so they will be prepared for it.
- Think about your Math class. There are of two types of students there. One type of student listens in class, works hard on assignments, is prepared with all of their supplies, does their homework, and practices their math facts at home. This student is not perfect, but they are prepared and give their best effort. The other type of student draws pictures or talks during class time, does not listen or do class work, rarely does their homework, might cheat on tests because they are not prepared, and forgets to practice math facts.
- These two students come to class one day and the teacher says, "Today we are having a pop test that will count for half your grade!" Both students think: What!? Yikes! Panic! But one student is quickly calm and knows they are ready, because they have been doing the right things in class and are prepared. The other student is still in a panic because they know they are not ready and there is nothing they can do to change it now. They will have to suffer the consequences of their lack of listening and effort. They are not ready.
- This example is to help you understand what it will be like on the Day of the Lord. Out of nowhere, without any warning, Jesus will come back to earth to get His people and bring them to heaven with Him forever.
- Who are His people? The Bible says those who put their faith and trust in Jesus are His! Those who do not put their faith and trust in Him belong to darkness or Satan. Are you ready? Are you His?
- We are told to be self-controlled, put on faith and love, and have hope in our salvation while we wait for the return of Christ. Without salvation there is no hope. Do you have hope? Pray as a family and thank God for the salvation that God has purchased for you through the work of Jesus. Thank God that as a result you do not have to be afraid of the return of Jesus and the Day of the Lord, but you can look forward to it eagerly.

### Students (Grades 6-12)

- Read John 17:3. This verse reminds us that we can know the Father. Do you know Christ? The question is not, “Have you prayed a prayer?”, but rather “Are you in a relationship with Christ?” What does that relationship look like?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:2-9. What separates a person from being of the day and light from one who is of the night and darkness? What does this passage have to say about faith, hope and love?
- The Day of the Lord promises judgment on the wicked, but it also affirms salvation for those that are in the light (believers). Paul’s urging to the believers in Thessalonica was to be ready for the return of the Lord. As a believer, how can we be ready for that day? What should our lives look like as we wait for that moment?
- This entire passage in 1 Thessalonians 5 is meant to be a great encouragement to believers. Paul says the Christ-follower can have confidence on the day of Lord. Read 5:9. Why do you think we can have this great confidence? Is it because of our great works or because of Christ’s sufficiency?

Prayer

Week 47

Intercession

Intercession means praying for others' spiritual and physical needs. God tells us in His Word to pray for others. If you desire to read some passages from Scripture about this, some are listed below.

Biblical Basis for Intercession:

1 Corinthians 10:3-5; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 6:18-21; 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Take an opportunity for those gathered with you in worship to mention specific prayer needs of others. Pray for each one of these requests specifically.

Nations: Uzbekistan

- The Uzbekistan government relentlessly persecutes the Church. Pray for God's strength for Christians under pressure to betray fellow believers to officials, are persecuted and imprisoned.
- Uzbek believers steadily grow despite opposition. Pray for quick integration of new Christians into a house church so discipleship can take place. Pray for boldness and courage amidst pressure and fear.
- Pray for the Uzbek government. Pray for genuine change, reform and leadership that demonstrates uprightness and governs for the sake of the people.
- Pray for the unreached in Uzbekistan, the Karakalpaks and the Tajiks - less than 0.1% are Christian. Pray for the availability of the Gospel among these peoples and for many to know Christ.

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

Scripture Memory

Week 47

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Christ Forever

By Josh Poore and David Leonard

Verse 1-2:

C#m A

While we were sinners

E B

Hopeless and broken still

C#m A

He came to save us

E B C#m A

Died on the cross for our sins

E B

But He rose again

C#m A

Now we are waiting

E B

Looking to Heaven still

C#m A

Jesus is reigning

E B

Soon to return again

Pre-Chorus:

A B

This world has nothing for me

C#m B/Eb

I'm coming home

Chorus:

E B

Hallelujah, let the nations sing

E/G# A

Jesus Christ is King

C#m B

Lord of Heaven

E B

Hallelujah, where all joys increase

E/G# A

Sin and sorrow cease

C#m B

Christ forever

Verse 3:

C#m A

With perfect vision

E B

Beauty is greater still

C#m A

From perfect voices

E B

Melodies sweeter still

Pre-Chorus:

A B

My soul will find completion

C#m B/Eb

When I come home

Bridge:

A E C#m B

Holy holy

A E

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

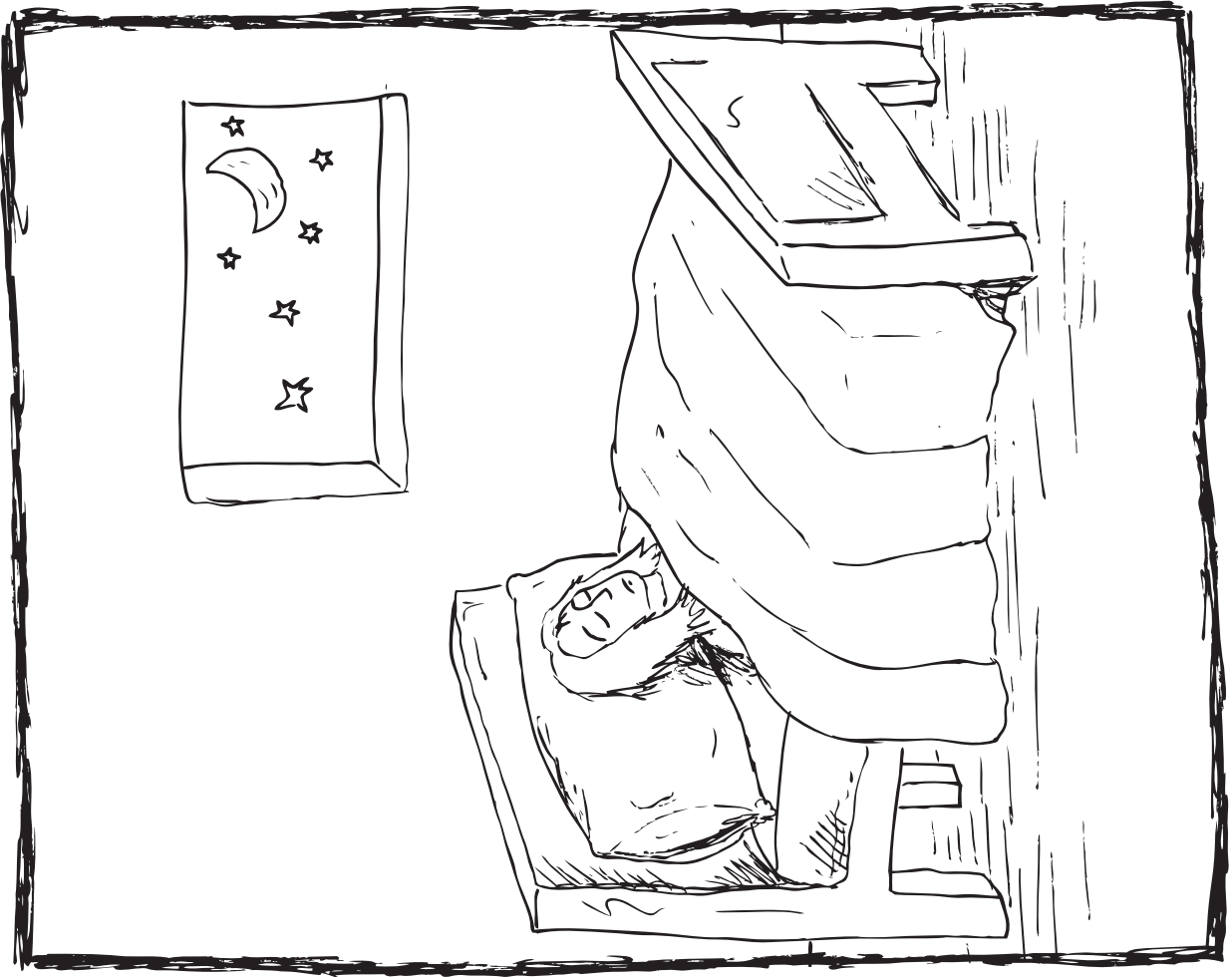
F#m E C#m B

Holy, holy

F#m C#m A B

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

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