

Family Worship Guide – Week 48

READ

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5
- We live in a culture that collectively smirks when Christ's death on the cross is proclaimed as salvific. Modern advancements in science and technology along with Post-Modern developments in philosophy and sociology have served to swell the Western ego. Many people consider the cross of Christ foolish, archaic, unsophisticated, barbaric, or unnecessary. Often times such salty sentiments are considered new perspectives that have risen in harmony with the sociological evolution of the human race. However, our 21st century, North American cultural context is not unique in viewing the cross of Christ with condescension. The Corinthian culture of the first century did the exact same thing. Because the cross of Christ is an affront to human pride, sinful people of every historical-cultural context have viewed its message with contempt.
- The Corinthian culture boasted in all that served a person's self-exaltation. Popular philosophies, powerful personalities, impressive presentations of oratorical skills and intelligence, as well as excessive demonstrations of wealth or even religious devotion determined the degree of esteem a person or group would receive from society. This staple trait of the Corinthian culture seeped into the young Corinthian church. As a result, the glory of Christ and His cross began to be depreciated by the newly formed Christian community.
- Rather than boasting in the cross of Christ, they began boasting in a plethora of people-pleasing, eyebrow-raising activities. For example, some members boasted in the oratorical skills of their preferred preacher (cr. 1:10-17). They attached themselves to the prestigious gift sets of a leader and began drawing Christ-diminishing comparisons between themselves and other groups. Such elitist, tribalistic approaches to Christian community undermine the glory of Christ's cross. Scripture always attributes salvation to God's activity and never to a particularly gifted person (cr., 3:5-9). Other self-serving tribes in the Corinthian church were comprised of those who swam in a certain socio-economic stream. Wealthier people assumed positions of authority and influence because they practically determined where the church could gather and how the church could serve. They erroneously considered members of a lower socio-economic class to be under their authority. Then there were those who attributed and acquired esteem through excessive displays of spirituality, such as speaking in tongues (cr. 12-14).
- Paul opens 1 Corinthians with a reminder of the centrality of the cross in a person's salvation, significance, and spirituality. The cross of Christ, not human effort, redeems our sinful nature with all its pride and tendencies to foster self-serving, divisive practices within the Christian community. When believers seek self-exaltation, division occurs. The exaltation of Christ and His cross produces unity.

The Bottom Line: The cross of Christ, not human effort, redeems our sinful nature with all its pride and tendencies to foster self-serving, divisive practices within the Christian community.

Questions:

Before conversion, what did you think about the cross of Christ?

Why is the "word of the cross" salvific?

How does the cross of Christ undermine pride in your own life?

How do we avoid division in the life of our church family?

How might we maintain a cross-centered focus in our lives, families, and church?

PRAY

- Read *Window on the World*, pg. 192-193 *Yemen*
- Use Prayer Card

SING

- Use lyric sheet and mp3 download of "Emmanuel"
- In this week's text we are looking at how the Gospel of Jesus must remain central in our lives. In light of what we see from Paul's words to the church at Corinth, we are using "Emmanuel" as the Family Worship Guide song. The truth we see at work in the Bible is that God enables His people to do His work and live for His glory by remaining with them through all things. The name "Emmanuel" is given to Jesus for a reason: the word itself means "God with us." This song gives us an opportunity to reflect on this assuring and empowering truth. Let us remember and realize together that He promises to never leave us or forsake us. Let us remember and realize together that keeping this promise, rooted in the cross of Christ, at the forefront of our minds is of utmost importance.

MEMORIZE

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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)

- Before you begin, gather a bag of garbage.
- Ask your child what you have in the bag. Garbage. Who takes out the garbage in our house? Allow your child time to answer.
- Then take a look inside bag and talk about the contents. Ex. banana peel, junk mail, empty containers, used paper towels, etc. We don’t want to leave garbage lying around our house because it will make our home messy and smelly. So, we collect all this garbage and put it in the bag. Then, we take it out to our larger trashcan outside. That way, our house is clean and garbage free.
- In a way, we all have ‘garbage’ in our lives. We call it sin or bad choices. Our bad choices could be arguing with our brother or sister or not obeying mommy and daddy. This ‘garbage’ messes up our lives. We need someone to clean up our lives. It will take a special person to do this. We can’t do it by ourselves. Do you have any idea who might help us?
- Jesus is the only one who can get rid of our sin - ‘our garbage’. He is all-powerful and loving. Jesus came to this earth as a baby, grew up and died on the cross so we all could be saved from our sin. When we choose to follow Jesus and turn away from our bad choices or sin, we will become clean and different too. Then, we can know Jesus and show His love to others all over the world!

Children (Grades 1-5)

- Discuss what characteristics make someone important or powerful in our society. Talk about the kinds of things we admire in other people and try to imitate. Sometimes we think that people who wear a certain brand of clothes, or are great athletes, or make good grades, or have a lot of friends are better than others. We look up to people who seem smart and powerful and in control of things and we listen to what they have to say.
- God chose the cross of Christ to show us that the world’s way of looking at things is foolish. Jesus gave up all his power and glory in heaven and came to earth as a human being. With loving humility he willingly died on the cross taking the full punishment for our sins.
- Because we are sinful we often make two foolish mistakes:
 - We look up to human leaders instead of looking to Christ for wisdom and as an example of how to live.
 - We ignore our need for Christ and think that we can do things or say things that will make us acceptable to God.
- The cross reminds us that we cannot brag about anything we have done. We can only brag about Christ and what He has done for us.
- Discuss how imitating Christ might make our way of life seem foolish to non-believers. Pray for the wisdom and power of God to transform us into His humble servants.

Students (Grades 6-12)

- Have someone read 1 Corinthians 1:18. What is meant by “the word of the cross?” (*Note: some versions use the words “message of the cross.”*) What do you think Paul means in this passage when he says the “word of the cross is folly [or foolishness] to those who are perishing?” How does this word or message transform from folly to power when God saves us?
- Read Verse 20. How has God made foolish the wisdom of this world through the cross?
- Scripture is clear that there is nothing any of us can do to manufacture or earn our own salvation. It is the work of God. How should this bring about humility in our lives when we consider the great work God has done in those of us who are Christ-followers?
- Take some time to discuss how the cross has been powerful for salvation in each of your family member’s lives. How can you intentionally share this power with someone this week? If there are specific people you know you will share with, take some time to pray for them and yourselves that the power of the Spirit will guide and fill all your conversations.

Prayer

Confession

Confession is our personal acknowledgement of the sin in our lives. God tells us in His word to confess our sin to Him and to turn from it. Confession is vital in the life of every believer as they seek to be more like Christ. To read some passages from scripture about this, some are listed below.

Biblical Basis for Confession:

Proverbs 28:13; Romans 10:10; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9

Take an opportunity for those gathered with you to spend time in silent confession to God.

Nations: Yemen

- Yemen has suffered almost unending conflict over the last four decades. Pray for a just government that will seek and bring about unity and peace for Yemen.
- Openly believing in Christ is dangerous in Yemen. Pray for more freedom for believers to share Christ and spread the Gospel.
- Most opposition and persecution for Yemeni believers comes from family. Pray for the transformation of families. Pray for Yemeni believers to be agents of cultural transformation, especially in the social structure of the family.
- Yemen is one of the world's least evangelized countries and has one of the youngest, fastest growing populations in the world. Pray for salvation for the many different groups in Yemen.

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

Week 48

Scripture Memory

Week 48

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Emmanuel

By Josh Poore

Intro: Cm Bb Ab

Verse 1:

Ab Cm

There in the manger

Bb

Your promise came to life

Cm

The hope of a Savior

Bb

for longing hearts that night

Cm

God we remember

Bb

As we walk in Your light

Fm

Your promise still endures

Bb

Your promise still endures

Chorus:

Ab Bb

You will never leave us

Ab Bb

Nor will You forsake us

Cm Ab

Now and for always

Bb

You will reign in our hearts

Cm

You're our strength today

Ab Bb

Forever hope tomorrow

Ab

Verse 2:

See in His coming

the Promise became flesh

See in His suffering

His love has conquered death

See in His rising

All nations have been blessed

Our hope remains secure

Our hope remains secure

Bridge:

Cm

You are our God

Bb

You do not change

Cm Ab

Emmanuel, God with us

Bb

Everyday

Cm Ab

You are our God

Bb

Your Kingdom reigns

Cm Ab

Forevermore we will

Bb

Glory in Your praise

Copyright©2009 Josh Poore

