

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 27

MEMORIZE

- For those with 1st-5th graders at Brook Hills, focus on the verses that they are memorizing in Children's Ministry for this unit.
 - 1st Grade – Matthew 22:37-39
 - 2nd Grade – Matthew 5:14-16
 - 3rd Grade – Proverbs 3:5-7
 - 4th Grade – Proverbs 4:10-15
 - 5th Grade – 1 John 4:9-12

READ

As our church reads through the Bible for the next two years, each day will include a chapter from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. As a family, decide if you want to read one or both of these passages. The Faith Family Worship Guide will look ahead to the readings for the upcoming week.

Read: Joshua 9:3-21

Questions:

- From what we know in Scripture, what types of things are parts of God's plan for the world?
- Why did the Gibeonites lie to the Israelites?
- What mistake did the Israelites make when the Gibeonites approached them? (see v. 14)
- Why was it wrong for the Israelites to make this promise to the Gibeonites?
- What should we learn from Israel's sin?
- How can we avoid that same mistake in our own lives?

Bottom Line: As God's people, we should seek His counsel instead of relying on our own wisdom.

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

- How did the people of Gibeon trick Joshua and the Israelites?
- What did Joshua and the Israelites forget to do?
- How did God help Joshua and the Israelites after they made a bad decision?
- How does God help us?
- What can you do when you need God's help? How does talking to God help you make a good decision or choice?
- Why is it important for us to pray and ask God to help us before we make decisions or choices?
- Parents: List a few situations in your life during which you prayed and asked God for His help.
- Can we always trust God to do what is best for us? What does God promise us?

Children

- Tell the story of the Israelites and the Gibeonites to your children in your own words.
- Read aloud verses 12-15.
- Apparently the leaders of the Israelites would rather eat yucky, old, dry, moldy bread than seek the counsel of the one true God.
- Why would they do that? How many times do we do that?
- How many times do we trust in our own ways rather than God's ways?
- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-7 together as a family.

Students

- This passage is interesting because we have an inside seat as the men of Gibeon try to pull one over on the Israelites.
- What did the men of Gibeon do to the Israelites? (Josh. 9:1-15)
- How did the men of Gibeon dress?
- What lies did they tell?
- What did Joshua find out about the men of Gibeon after he made a pact with them? (Josh. 9:16)
- What didn't Joshua do before he made a contract with the men of Gibeon?
- Why is it important to pray before we make big decisions?
- Discuss a time when you may have been too quick to decide something without bringing it before the Lord.
- What decisions do you need to seek the Lord on this week?

SING

The Gospel Coalition song “Not in Me” comes from a place of extreme humility. It is not easy for us to admit that we aren't all that. But ultimately that's what Christianity calls us to acknowledge. In order to walk in faith with Him we must die to ourselves and admit that everything we have is from Christ our savior.

This song helps us keep that outlook by its rhythmic listing of the things that we cannot achieve as mortals. The song doesn't stay on this low note for very long, though. The song ends in triumph as we switch our perspective from our shortcomings to the One who has made a way. We aren't all that, but we can take comfort in the fact that we belong to One who is and who has adopted us into His family. Oh what a joy! Hallelujah!

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE STORY

Readings for July 7-13

Joshua 9-19 and Psalm 140-150

Where We Are In The Story (Joshua)

Background of Joshua: While authorship of this book is unknown, the book's name derives from the name of its main character, Joshua, who was Moses' successor in leading the people of Israel. His name means “Yahweh delivers” or “Yahweh saves,” which is an apt title of the book since it describes *God's* work in defeating the nations of the Promised Land and giving the land to His people. Joshua presents the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give their descendants the land of Canaan, and it describes the military conquests that brought this to pass. Written as a historical book for Israel, Joshua also emphasizes God's sovereignty, omnipotence, and faithfulness to His word, and Joshua 21:43-45 provides a fitting summary of God's character as One who keeps *all* of His promises.

Structure of Joshua:

- Joshua 1-5 describe Israel's preparations before taking the Promised Land.
- Joshua 6-12 depict the military conquests of the nation.
- Joshua 13-21 explain the distribution of the land among the tribes, highlighting the fulfillment of God's promises to His people.
- Joshua 22-24 record Joshua's final instructions and exhortations to the nation before his death.

This Week in Joshua: Joshua 9 records the Gibeonite deception, and verse fourteen explains the crux of the matter: “So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD.” God had given them directions on how to deal with the people in the land and how to respond to other nations (Deut. 20). Based on their own wisdom, the Israelites assumed that the Gibeonites fell into the category of a foreign nation rather than a nation living in the Promised Land. Because of their deception, they were cursed (see Deut. 27-28). Nehemiah 3:7; 7:25 reports that the Gibeonites were among the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile and helped rebuild the wall of the city, demonstrating that they had been assimilated into the nation of Israel.

While the Gibeonites deceived the Israelites because of fear, Joshua 10-11 tell of two groups of nations who opposed Israel in battle. The kingdoms mentioned in Joshua 10 were all located in the region between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, which is also where Gibeon was located, and soon after making the peace treaty with the Gibeonites,

the Gibeonites called upon Israel to honor their promise to protect them. God demonstrated His power as He struck the enemy nations with hail and had the sun and moon stand still until the enemy had been defeated. According to David M. Howard in his commentary on Joshua, “A midsummer hailstorm would have been a rarity, rendering miraculous assistance in this instance. There are only five to eight days of hail per year in the coastal plain, mostly in midwinter...And even then the hail is not usually of deadly force” (p. 237). Yahweh rightly receives the credit as Israel’s warrior in this chapter.

Israel continued to battle against the inhabitants of Canaan and take possession of the land as God had promised. Although not all of the land had been possessed, in Joshua 13 God directs Joshua to divide the land among the tribes of Israel as Moses had directed (Num. 27:18-23; 32:17; 34:17; Deut. 1:38; 3:28; 31:7). Completion of the conquest depended on more than just military success; it also involved the people settling the land God had given to them. Joshua 13-19 explain the inheritance of the tribes and of Caleb and Joshua. It is important to note that Israel does not complete their conquest until the reign of King David (2 Sam. 8:1-14) because it was not until then that they were faithful in defeating the remaining nations.

Where We Are In The Story (Psalms)

Background & Structure of Psalms: God used many different writers to write Psalms: David, Moses, the sons of Korah, Asaph, etc. The book is arranged in five parts, and this arrangement occurred after the people of Israel returned to the land after the Babylonian exile. A doxology concludes each book or arrangement of psalms (Psalm 41:13 for Book 1, Psalm 72:18-19 for Book 2, Psalm 89:52 for Book 3, Psalm 106:48 for Book 4, and Psalm 150:6 for Book 5), and the entire book of Psalms climactically ends with a grand doxology of several psalms (Ps. 146-150).

- Book 1: Psalms 1-41
- Book 2: Psalms 42-72
- Book 3: Psalms 73-89
- Book 4: Psalms 90-106
- Book 5: Psalms 107-150

This Week in Psalms:

- **Psalm 140** is divided into four parts. In section one (vv. 1-3), the psalmist petitions God for deliverance from violent men. In section two (vv. 4-5), he asks for God to guard him from the traps of the wicked. Section three (vv. 6-8) contains a declaration of trust in God along with a petition to thwart the plot of the psalmist’s enemies, and section four (vv. 9-13) continues with more petitions and concludes with confidence in God’s justice and righteousness.
- In **Psalm 141**, the psalmist asks God to sanctify him and to cultivate righteousness in him, and the psalmist requests that God preserve him and keep him from evil.
- **Psalms 142-143** both include petitions for God’s deliverance from enemies and expressions of trust in the God who has preserved the psalmist thus far. The psalms stem from a believer who desires to faithfully follow God in times of adversity.
- **Psalm 144** contains a praise report for God’s faithfulness in battle (vv. 1-2) and boldly petitions God to demonstrate His might in defeating the psalmist’s current enemies and to bless His people.
- **Psalm 145** is an alphabetical psalm, except that the Hebrew letter nun (נ) is left out of the acrostic. This psalm serves as a hymn that celebrates God’s character and mighty deeds.
- **Psalms 146-150** serve as the doxology of the entire book, ending the book with a crescendo of praise to God for His character and calling all of creation to join in praising Him.