

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 3

MEMORIZE

- Choose either 2 Timothy 3:16-17 or Psalm 119:7-14, and make it the family emphasis for the month of January.
- 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 – John 3:16
 - 2nd Grade – Psalm 139:7-10
 - 3rd Grade – Psalm 23:1-6
 - 4th Grade – Philippians 3:20-21
 - 5th Grade – Colossians 1:15-18

READ

Overview:

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 back at the readings for the previous week, but for this first month, we will emphasize why the Bible is important, how to read and understand the Bible, how the Bible is supposed to change us, and why we pray. Included below are the readings for last week from the Bible Reading Plan.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Genesis 14 Matthew 13	Genesis 15 Matthew 14	Genesis 16 Matthew 15	Genesis 17 Matthew 16	Genesis 18 Matthew 17	Genesis 19 Matthew 18	Genesis 20 Matthew 19

Where We Are In The Story (Old Testament): As the first book of the Bible, Genesis explains that God is the all-powerful Creator who cares about His creation even when they disobey Him, and it teaches that God takes evil and transforms it for His glory (Gen. 50:20). Written by Moses when Israel was wandering in the wilderness, Genesis 12-50 specifically emphasizes the development of the nation of Israel by focusing on their founding fathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This week’s readings focus on the life of Abram (a.k.a. Abraham) with Genesis 15 and 17 detailing God’s covenant with him. The Abrahamic Covenant includes promises to provide him with innumerable descendants including kings and to give their descendants the land of Canaan. Genesis 15 also includes prophecy regarding Israel serving as slaves in Egypt for 400 years. At the time of these promises, Abraham and Sarah were childless and in their 90s, so for them to trust that God would give them more descendants than the stars in the sky required great faith. But when God’s promises did not occur in their timeframe, Abraham and Sarah tried to take control of the situation by Abraham having a child with Sarah’s slave, Hagar (Gen. 16). Their sinful actions resulted in consequences that affected their family and generations after them. Genesis 16, God’s judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18-19), and Abraham’s lie to King Abimelech (Gen. 20) demonstrates the sinfulness of man, God’s punishment of sin, and the grace and mercy He extends to sinners.

Where We Are In The Story (New Testament): Matthew is the first of four Gospels that tell about the life of Christ. As one of the twelve disciples (Matt. 9:9-13), Matthew focuses on demonstrating how Jesus fulfills Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah. With regard to structure, Matthew includes five collections of Jesus’ teaching (Matt. 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25), and each of these sections concludes with a statement saying “And when Jesus finished these sayings...” Matthew 13 includes the third collection of Jesus’ teachings, which consists of seven parables (earthly stories with heavenly meanings) that teach about the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 14-17 includes descriptions of Jesus’ miracles and tells of the growing hostility towards Jesus by the religious leaders, and Matthew 16:21 introduces a transition in Jesus’ life and ministry. The declaration that He is the Messiah (Matt. 16:13-20) leads Jesus to prepare His followers for His coming death and resurrection, and the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-13 (when Jesus appeared in a glorified body with Moses and Elijah on the mountain) gives Peter, James, and John proof of Jesus’ identity as the Son of God, His authority, and His power. Matthew 18 contains the fourth collection of Jesus’ teachings and focuses on the theme of relationships with an emphasis on forgiveness and how to deal with conflict.

Week 3 Application:

Read: Joshua 1:8

The Bible compares itself to water (Eph. 5:26), food (Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4), light (Ps. 119:105), fire and a tool (Jer. 23:29), a weapon (Eph. 6:17), and a seed (1 Pet. 1:23) – all needed items. While such items are essential to life, we also need the constant influence of the Bible in our lives. Without knowledge of God, life lacks meaning and worth, and unlike any other book (including books by Christians), the Bible was written *by God* for us to know Him and how to live for Him. As Christians, we grow in relationship with God by spending time with Him, talking to Him, and listening to Him, which we do by reading what He has written. The acronym **REAP** helps us learn how to study God’s Word. First, we **read** the Bible, which necessitates figuring out a time and a place each day where we can do this. As you read, **examine** the text by asking what the passage says and means. What questions do you have about what you are reading? How can you find answers to your questions? What are important words or ideas in what you are reading? As we read Scripture, we also need to **apply** what we are reading by asking what God wants us to do with what we have read and then by obeying it. God also wants for His Word to guide how we **pray**, so as you read, ask God to change your thinking, heart, attitude, and actions and to make you look and act more like Him.

Questions

- How is reading the Bible different than reading any other book?
- What does it mean to examine what I read in Scripture?
- How do I apply what I read in the Bible?
- How do I pray Scripture?

Bottom Line: Reading, examining, applying, and praying Scripture helps Christ-followers grow closer to God.

SING

This week’s FFWG Song is “Shine Into Our Night” by Sovereign Grace Worship. “Shine Into Our Night” was written in 2011 by Joel Sczebel. It is a fresh reminder of our need for the cross of Jesus Christ. This week as you continue in worship, sing “Shine Into Our Night” and rejoice the love of God in how He has made a way for us to know His love.

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, grab your Bible and open to Psalm 119:7-14. You will need a flashlight for this object lesson.
- Explain to your preschoolers that everything in the Bible is true.
- Turn on the flashlight and explain to your preschoolers that you have a flashlight and that flashlights provide light for us to see in the darkness. Tell them that you are going to dim or turn out the lights and that you would like for them to take turns carrying the light around the room. Just like we need a flashlight to guide our way in the darkness, we need God’s word (the Bible) to help guide us every day.
- God gave us His word so that we can know Him with our whole heart and keep His commandments. One of the ways we can learn more about Him is to read the Bible like we are doing right now.
- God also wants for His Word to guide how we pray, so as you read, ask God to change your thinking, heart, attitude, and actions and to make you look and act more like Him. Explain that when we pray we are simply talking to God. God hears our prayer and since His word guide us, we can talk to God about His word.
- Just like the flashlight provides a way for us to see in the dark, Gods word helps us grow closer to him and helps us to see His path for our life.
- Conclude your family time in prayer. Ask God to help you grow closer to Him as you continue to read through the Bible this year.

Children

- Grab a poster board, some markers, and a bible, and then sit down with your children.
- Open your Bible in front of you and tell your children that there are so many great books to read and enjoy. Ask them to

share about one of their favorite books.

- Point out that the Bible is different than any other book, and ask them if they know what makes it different. Allow them to share some thoughts.
- Emphasize that the Bible is God’s word and when we read it, we learn about God and His plan for the world and for us—it is a powerful book! Make sure your children understand that the Bible is completely true and trustworthy.
- Read Joshua 1:8 and ask your children what this verse commands us to do with God’s word. Allow them to share.
- Explain that this verse tells us to do two things: meditate, or think about, the Word day and night, and do what it says.
- Write “REAP” at the top of your poster board, leaving plenty of space below. Explain that the word “REAP” will help us understand how to do what Joshua 1:8 says.
- Explain each letter (you may want to write the word just below each letter on the poster board):
 - “R” stands for “Read.” First we have to read God’s Word. If your children are older, you may want to encourage them to read a few verses, or even the church-wide readings each day. If they are younger, you may want to spend a few minutes reading together with them each day.
 - “E” stands for “Examine.” This means we need to think about what we have read—what is the verse telling us about God, how is the verse telling us to obey?
 - “A” stands for “Apply.” Now that we have read and examined what the verse is saying, we need to actually do what it says. Encourage your child to think about one way they can obey based on what they read each day.
 - “P” stands for “Pray.” God’s Word helps us know what to pray for—refer back to the previous lesson for different ways we can pray.
- Tell your children that you will hang this poster in a visible place, and everyone in the family can add to it throughout the week. They can write down a favorite verse they read, something they learned from the Bible, a way they will apply God’s word, or a prayer request. In a few weeks or months, take some time to look back over the poster and rejoice together over what God is doing in your family’s life.
- Read Joshua 1:8 as a prayer.

Students

- With students, their faith is progressively becoming their own. Though walking through a passage together is valuable, it can be even more encouraging and helpful to go through the process of reading, examining, and applying individually and then sharing together what was discovered individually. Ask your student to choose a passage from this week’s reading plan for the family to study, and inform them that you are all going to read, examine, and apply the Scripture on your own. If necessary use the provided explanation to be sure that everyone knows what is meant by “examine” and “apply.” Instruct everyone to take a minimum of fifteen minutes to take some time by themselves and study.
- When the time has expired have everyone return together and share their answers to the following questions:
 - In this passage what did you sense God drawing to your attention?
 - Was there anything that seemed new or different from any other time you have read this passage?
 - What does the passage tell you about God?
 - Were there any direct commands in the passage?
 - If being a Christ-follower means to live more and more in a way that resembles who God is, what are some adjustments that people are challenged to make in this passage?
 - Is there anything you know you need to change, repent of, or pursue more diligently in your life in light of this passage?
 - How can we as your family help you in this?
- In light of what is shared by each family member, have each person assigned to pray for another. Once everyone has prayed, encourage them to continue to pray for that family member and what they shared for the next week. You may even want to provide note cards or paper on which they can write their prayer requests and then give to their assigned person. Be sure to follow up the next week regarding everyone’s commitment and progress in these areas.