

## Family Worship Guide – Week 17

### READ

Read Psalm 78

This psalm was written by Asaph, who was a music leader in the service of King David (1 Chronicles 16:4-5). It is a long psalm (72 verses), which details the history of Israel beginning with Jacob and his sons in Egypt, through the time of King David (v. 5-72). In one sense it is a depressing psalm as Israel's disobedience is continually brought to the forefront, serving as a reminder of our own stubborn hearts. However, in a greater sense the psalm is one of hope as it is a constant reminder of the gracious longsuffering and mercy of God.

Before the sweeping overview of Israel's disobedience and God's repeated mercy to His people, the first eight verses explain what the psalm was intended to accomplish. God's intention was for the glory of His longsuffering, mercy and power to be passed down to the generation to come. Just as the previous generation declared the glorious deeds and marvelous works of God to the current generation, so now Asaph impresses upon the people the responsibility they now have to pass this on to the generation that is to come so they too will learn of God's great power and praiseworthy deeds. 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. 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:** Physical and spiritual parents (i.e., the church) have the privilege of working together to pass on the glorious works of God to the next generation.

### PRAY

Brook Hills Faith Family has been blessed with the privilege of relationships with students in various courses of study. Today, we are celebrating alongside the families who have graduates of high schools, colleges and seminaries. Graduation is a season of celebration and sending. We celebrate the accomplishment of our students. We celebrate the opportunity to send our students to the next phase of their lives. We also pray that as they move to the next phase of their lives, that they advance the Gospel by sharing, showing, teaching the word while they serve the world.

### SING

As we begin our Next Generation teaching series next week, we chose the song 'Today' in preparation for this teaching.

In our culture, we have to make a choice – to live as families who are following God's Word or to live as the world does. These two ways of living are not the same. The lyrics to this song 'today I choose to give my "yes" to You' should be on our lips everyday as God's people. Those who have been transformed by His glorious gospel, through His grace, say 'yes' to Him. This 'yes' means that we daily offer our lives, possessions, relationships, time and resources to Him.

As we meditate on this truth and hear the words of this song, let's prayerfully ask God how our families can most glorify Him and continually to give our 'yes' Him.

### MEMORIZE

Psalm 78:5-6 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children..."

### 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

- Preschoolers love repetition. They love to hear their favorite storybooks read over and over to them. They love to sing their favorite songs over and over again.
- Keeping that thought in mind, have your children repeat or sing the words to this simple song. You sing or say a line, then have them repeat each line back to you until it is complete.  
**'My God is So Great'**  
*My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!*  
*There's nothing my God cannot do!*  
*My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!*  
*There's nothing my God cannot do!*  
*The mountains are His, the rivers are His,*  
*The stars in the sky are His, too!*  
*My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!*  
*There's nothing my God cannot do.*
- Now, have them repeat or sing each line of this popular song.  
**'Jesus Loves Me'**  
*Jesus loves me this I know,*  
*For the Bible tells me so;*  
*Little ones to Him belong.*  
*They are weak, but He is strong.*  
*Yes, Jesus loves me,*  
*Yes, Jesus loves me,*  
*Yes, Jesus loves me,*  
*The Bible tells me so.*
- Read Psalm 78: 2-7 with your preschooler.
- Tell your child that Asaph, who wrote the Psalm, was a music leader. He wanted the people to remember who God was and how much God loved them. He wanted people to remember to tell their children how mighty and loving God is.
- Explain to your preschooler that just like Jacob in the Bible, who taught his children about God, it's your job as their parents to do the same thing. That's why we learn about the stories from God's word, the Bible. The Bible teaches us who God is. It teaches us about God as the One who created everything. We learn about God's mercy and love for His people through the Bible. We see that even when the people of Israel were not obedient and following God's laws and were punished, God still showed them kindness and mercy. We learn that we need God.
- Tell your children that when you teach them how much God loves them and wants them to follow His plan for them, then when they grow up and have children of their own, they will tell their children too. You see, once you know God, then you will want to tell others about the stories of the Bible and God's love and mercy, too."
- Question: Do we know God better when we hear stories from the Bible? Yes, we do. Is it Mom and Dad's job to teach you about God? Yes, the Bible tells us to. Is it your job, too? Yes, God wants all of His people to share who He is with others.
- Conclude by singing or repeating the songs of worship and praise together once again.

### Children

- Re-read Psalm 78: 5-7.
- **OBJECT LESSON:**
  - Give everyone in the family an empty, regular sized drinking cup. Then fill a large pitcher of water – mom or dad will hold onto this. Also, set out an assortment of empty cups on the kitchen counter.
  - Ask each child how much water is currently in their cup. None.
  - Explain that you have a full pitcher of water, and that the water represents the knowledge of the Lord as known through the Word.
  - Ask: Based on Psalm 78: 1-8, what does the Lord command us to do with the knowledge of the greatness of God? Teach it to the next generation.
  - Fill each child's cup with water from the pitcher and explain that God has called you as parents to teach them the truths of the Word.

- Explain that the result is that God get's more glory as more and more worshipers are raised up who know His greatness and come to trust in His salvation.
- **APPLICATION:**
  - Brainstorm ways that God might be able to use you as a family to teach the Word to the next generation inside the church and outside the church.
  - Have each child pour the water from their cup into an empty cup on the counter. This represents opportunities to teach the Word to others. When a child's cup becomes empty, immediately fill it with water from the large pitcher. Explain that as a family you want to constantly be studying the Word, talking about the Word, and hiding it in your hearts through memorization so that you are ready to give it away to others.
- Pray as a family for more hunger to know the Word and for opportunities to pass it to others. The joyful result is God getting the glory that He alone deserves.

### Students

- Begin your time together by playing the classic game “telephone”. Start off whispering a complicated story to the first family member. Come up with stories that have lots of details, especially involving people and places. The more detailed the story is, the more likely the message will be changed as it makes it way through the telephone line. Listen carefully as the second person whispers the story to the third. The story is then repeated in whispers by the rest of your family members until the last person in line has heard it. *(Note: It's ok if the story needs to go around the circle more than once.)* The final player in the telephone line will repeat the story to everyone as they heard it. The more garbled the message, the funnier this game becomes. Have Fun!
- As a family read Psalms 78:5-8.
- Use the following activity to illustrate the importance of knowing and sharing the things you desire to pass on to the next generation.
- Parents, share some stories that have been passed down to you from your family, i.e. funny memories, family mysteries, success and failures that shaped the course of you family, etc.
- Discuss the stories your children will want to tell their grandchildren if they were here today.
- What will those grandkids know about your faith? What stories about your relationship with Christ could you tell? Do you think they will be wowed by “our” God stories? Discuss.
- Discuss as a family the stories you desire them to know, believe, remember, build upon and retell to their children.
- Pray and thank the Lord for allowing you to be a part in His story. Ask the Spirit to guide you as you continue to walk in your faith journey. Pray for boldness to live out your life and ministry well to the glory of Christ's name.

Lives/Church

In light of last weeks devastating storms that swept through the Southeast, the state of Alabama and Birmingham, it is incumbent upon us as the people of God to pray for all those affected. Spend some time this week praying for the grieving families who have lost loved ones. Pray that many Christians and churches would be active in displaying the mercy of God by coming to the aid of those who have suffered loss. Ask God to use this horrible disaster to call people to Himself as their only hope and refuge. Pray that the devastation of this storm would cause all of us to tremble in awe before a sovereign God who controls every drop of rain, strike of lightning and movement of the wind. Pray that through this storm we would be ever mindful that our lives are but a vapor. Finally, pray that this devastating storm would lead us to despise and flee from sin, as it reminds us that we live in a fallen world under the weight of sin.

Local

**Local Church:** Oak Mountain Baptist, Wayne Williams

**Focus:** Families of Graduating Students

**Monday:** Pray for the Godly teachers in this faith family to be influential for the gospel in the lives of the students who will be graduating.

**Tuesday:** Pray for the parents and grandparents of graduating students to have unique wisdom and insight to celebrate this rite of passage in their family in ways that prepare graduates spiritually for the next phase of their lives.

**Wednesday:** Pray for the graduates to experience a movement of God in their generation, calling their generation to follow Christ, advance the gospel and make disciples.

**Thursday:** Pray for our graduates to build a lifestyle of pursuing God throughout college and young adulthood.

**Friday:** Pray for our graduates to find friends who encourage their walk with Christ and with whom they can have iron-sharpening-iron relationships.

**Saturday:** Pray for the families going through the transition of graduation to make great memories together this summer.

Global

**Short Term Teams:** There are no short term trips this week.

**Partner:** Jayson and Ashley serving in East Asia

**Monday:** Pray for Jayson and Ashley as they continue the process of learning the local language.

**Tuesday:** Pray for them as they seek to renew their visas and that there would be nothing to prevent them from staying in their country.

**Wednesday:** Jayson and Ashley are moving to a new city and will have new opportunities to share the gospel. Pray that many will hear the gospel and know Christ.

**Thursday:** They have four children. Pray for their children as they continue to adjust and make new friends.

**Friday:** Jayson and Ashley can now share the gospel in the local language. Pray that God gives them many opportunities to share.

**Saturday:** Pray for others from Brook Hills to join their team and serve in East Asia.

**Scripture Memory**

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children... Psalm 78:5-6

**Today (As for Me and My House)**

By Brian Doerksen & Sandra Gage

Today I choose to follow You

Today I choose to give my "yes" to You

Today I choose to hear Your voice and live

Today I choose to follow You

As for me and my house

We will serve You

As for me and my house

We will spend our lives on You

Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father

Eternal King, Lord of Hosts

Willingly we follow

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