Family Worship Guide – Week 25

READ

Read Psalm 127.

This Psalm reminds us that in everything we do, we are dependent on God to bless our efforts.

In verse 1 the author, Solomon, talks about building a house. Now, he doesn't just mean building a physical house. He means building a family, or a kingdom (Solomon was the king), or a temple (Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem), or whatever else we try to do. So the point is that no matter what we attempt, we need God's grace in order to succeed.

God is a good and loving God. He takes care of His people. Therefore, His people ("His beloved") can sleep at night (v. 2). They rest easy knowing that God takes care of them.

One of the greatest examples of God's grace in our lives is our family. God is the one who gives children. God creates life, and He gives children to parents as a gift (v. 3-5). This is another reminder that we need God's help and God's grace. Parents cannot create life on their own. God creates life, and He gives children to parents as a blessing.

This is also a great reminder to parents that we need God's grace in raising our families. We might try to do things right, but we need God to work in the hearts of our children.

Questions:
What are some specific ways that you need God's grace? How have you seen God help you in the past?
What words does Solomon use to describe the blessing of children in verses 3-5? Why do you think he chooses these words?
Parents, how can you treat your children like the blessing they are from God?
Children, how can you be a blessing to your parents?

Bottom Line: We are dependent on God's grace in everything we do, especially in our family life.

PRAY

The faith family of Brook Hills has an incredible responsibility to pass the faith effectively to the Next Generation. The purpose of our Next Generation Ministry is to create disciple-making strategies that are aimed at the individual, implemented through families and mentors, and supported by the church. As we pray this week for a focused Next Generation Ministry, we invite you to pray intentionally that God would advance His gospel through His people from generation to generation, and from neighborhoods to nations for His Glory and for our good.

SING

The song 'Great is Your Faithfulness' is based on Lamentations 3:22-24 and adapted from the hymn 'Great is Thy Faithfulness.' When writing the song, Jim and Josh sought to portray the truths from Lamentations that show our total reliance and dependence on God – the Sustainer of all things. The song depicts us as completely sinful with nothing good to give, and only through God's faithfulness and mercy towards us can we achieve anything good. The chorus of the song truly stresses God's immutability and our need to rely on his faithfulness day by day. Ultimately, in this song we sing to express our dependence on and gratitude for our strong and loving God.

MEMORIZE

Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

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-

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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: gather paper, scissors and glue sticks or staple gun. Cut paper into strips 1" wide by 8" long. You should cut one strip for each member of your family and one strip for God.
- Read Psalm 127:3a.
- Explain to your preschooler that the Bible tells us that children are a gift from God. Ask if they ever think of themselves as a gift? What if you put a great big bow on them or wrapped them up in wrapping paper and ribbons? Would they think of themselves as a gift then? Let them know they are a gift, and God created them and gave them to you.
- Tell your child that you are going to create a craft together to help them understand that it was God who formed your family and that it is only with God's love and help that you will be able to follow God's plan for your lives. You need God.
- Take the strips and allow the children to write the names of their family members on the strips: Mom, Dad, Danny, Sarah, etc. Write the word "God" on one strip.
- Make paper chains with the strips of paper by gluing or stapling the ends of one together and putting the second strip through the first one before gluing. Make sure that you put "God" in the center of your chain, then, Mom, Dad, kids, etc. When you are finished, explain to your child that your chain is very strong now because God is the center of your family chain. Say, "We couldn't be your parents without God, who created us. God gave you to us as a gift, and He joined us together as a family. God created all people all over the world. He is the boss over all things. We need God as the boss of our family."
- Re-read Psalm 127:3 together.
- Pray and thank God for the gift of your children and family.

Children

- Make a list of difficult tasks such as:
    - Balance a stack of books on your head and walk across the room without dropping the books.
    - Spin in a circle 10 times then walk a straight line without stepping off the line.
    - Run across the room with a ping-pong ball in a spoon without dropping the ball.
- Have fun together trying to complete these tasks. Reread Psalm 127:1. Explain to the children that no matter what the task before us, we are dependent on God's grace to succeed. God puts families together, and we need His power working in each of our lives to help us build and maintain strong homes. When we face challenges in our family relationships, we need to look to God as our watchman. He is there to protect us and give us the strength to overcome attacks from the enemy.
- Discuss the fact that there are no perfect kids and no perfect parents. Just as God shows us great grace in forgiving our sins, we should show mercy and forgiveness in our families. We need God to help us live together as a family in a way that glorifies Him.
- Read Psalm 127:3-5. Tell your children specific ways in which they have blessed your life.
- Pray together asking God to build your family and guard and protect it. Thank God for the grace He has shown you, and ask Him for help showing grace to each other.

Students

- Re-Read Psalm 127 and then have someone else read Psalm 20:7.
- Ask your family what these passages have to do with the idea of God's provision. How do they contrast one another?
- Communicate to your family that these Psalms outline two opposing approaches to life. In one, people put their trust and faith in themselves – their houses, their well-being, and their children. They take confidence in what they did not build as well as in the things they believe they brought to the table.
- The opposing view is quite different: seeing God as the builder of the house, the protector, and the giver of children. In the second perspective, we recognize that God as the ultimate provider and constructor.
- Which of these two mind-sets is most seen today? Why?
- Which best describes your normal way of approaching life on a regular basis? Discuss this as a family.
- Why is it so easy to forget that God is the provider of every good thing in our lives?
- Give each family member a brick and a marker. Read Psalm 127:1 again and write words or symbols on your brick that represent the roles of God that we often try to take over. On the other side write down a few words of thanksgiving to God, as the true "builder" and "sustainer" of all good things.
- Close in family prayer communicating the thing you thanked God for on your brick. Ask God to remind us that in everything we do, we are dependent on His provisions and blessings.

Prayer

Week 25

Lives/Church

Our church prayer highlight for this week centers around the exhortations in Titus 2 given to older men and women in the church. We see older men and women are urged to give their lives to equipping and training younger men and women. Pray that older men at Brook Hills would be diligent to invest their lives and disciple the next generation. Pray that younger men would be humble and teachable and willing to be discipled. Pray that older women in our church would strive to find ways to encourage the younger generation to love their families. Finally, pray that younger women at Brook Hills would seek out the wisdom and godly example of our churche's older women.

Local

Local Church: Center Crest Baptist: Tim Evans, Pastor

Focus: Next Generation - to create disciple-making strategies that are aimed at the individual, implemented through families and mentors, and supported by the church.

Monday: Pray for preschoolers, children and students in our faith family and community to, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)

Tuesday: Pray for moms, dads and primary care-givers in our faith family and community that God would turn their hearts toward their children and their children's hearts toward them. (Malachi 4:6)

Wednesday: Pray for God to create intergenerational relationships where the entire faith family at TCABH and other congregations around the world become leaders of the Next Generation sharing the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord across the generations. (Psalm 78:4)

Thursday: Pray for the preschool ministry team of staff and volunteers led by Diona Hightower as they come alongside families of preschoolers nurturing their heart toward God.

Friday: Pray for the children's ministry team, led by Jordan Anderson, as they come alongside parents of elementary aged children setting a foundation of the Gospel in their lives.

Saturday: Pray for the student ministry team, led by Mark Sly, as they come alongside parents of middle and high school students, mobilizing them to advance the gospel in their generation, to their neighborhoods and to the nations.

Global

Short Term Teams: New York City, East Asia and South East Asia

Partner: The Shirley family, Brook Hills Long-Term Missionaries to Kenya

Monday: Pray for endurance and faith for Rhett while serving in the hospital. The task that God has provided involves sharing in suffering and hopelessness of many patients. Many adults and children die despite his best efforts and heartfelt prayers.

Tuesday: Pray for stamina and patience for Megan as she cares for their three small children. She doesn't have a lot of support while Rhett works long hours.

Wednesday: Pray for Claire (5), Ford (3), and Gus (2). They have had to say many goodbyes to friends over the past 2 years. They miss their grandparents and cousins. Pray for encouragement, peace and understanding of their purpose in Kenya.

Thursday: Pray for the condition of the HIV epidemic in Kenya. Many desperate people are turning to traditional healers for "cure." Pray that people would repent and turn to God for restoration of their lives and relationships.

Friday: Pray for the Kijabe HIV Women's Health Fund, a ministry providing diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer for HIV infected women. Pray that many lives of wives and mothers will be saved through early diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer.

Saturday: Pray for endurance in the last 4 months of the 2-year commitment in Kenya. Pray that the Shirley's time in Kenya will greatly influence how they serve God in the future.

Scripture Memory

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS

Great Is Your Faithfulness

by Josh Poore and Jim Watkins

Ab Abmaj7 Db Eb

Verse 1:
Ab
Great is Your Faithfulness
Abmaj7
Your mercies never end
Db
With each new day
Eb
They come again.
Ab
Your endless love is strong
Abmaj7
Sure as the coming dawn
Db
Your faithfulness
Eb
Will be my song.
Bbm
As You have been
Db Ab
Forever You will be

Chorus 1:
Ab Db Eb
Great is Your faithfulness
Fm Db Eb
Always, oh Lord, to me.
Ab Db Eb
Morning by morning,
Fm Db Eb
New mercies still I see.
Fm Db Eb Ab Eb
Great is Your faithfulness to me.

Verse 2:
Ab
Great is my sinfulness
Abmaj7
No good I have to give.
Db
But by Your grace,
Eb
Now I can live.
Ab
You are my righteousness
Abmaj7
The pardon for my sin
Db
Your presence here
Eb
My King and friend.
Bbm
As You have been
Db Ab
Forever You will be

Chorus 2:
Ab Db Eb
Great is Your faithfulness
Fm Db Eb
Always, oh Lord, to me.
Ab Db Eb
Morning by morning,
Fm Db Eb
New mercies still I see.
Fm Db Eb
And though my heart may fail,
Fm Db Eb
You will my portion be
Fm Db Eb
Great is Your faithfulness to me.

Db Eb Ab Fm (repeat)

Bridge: (4x)
Db Eb
Your promise stands forever
Ab Fm
We will declare together.
Db Eb
Your name alone is great and
Ab Fm (4th x Eb Db)
Greatly to be praised.

Chorus 2: (2x)

Tags:
Fm Db Eb
Great is Your faithfulness
Fm Db Eb
Great is Your faithfulness

Ab Abmaj7 Db Eb Ab

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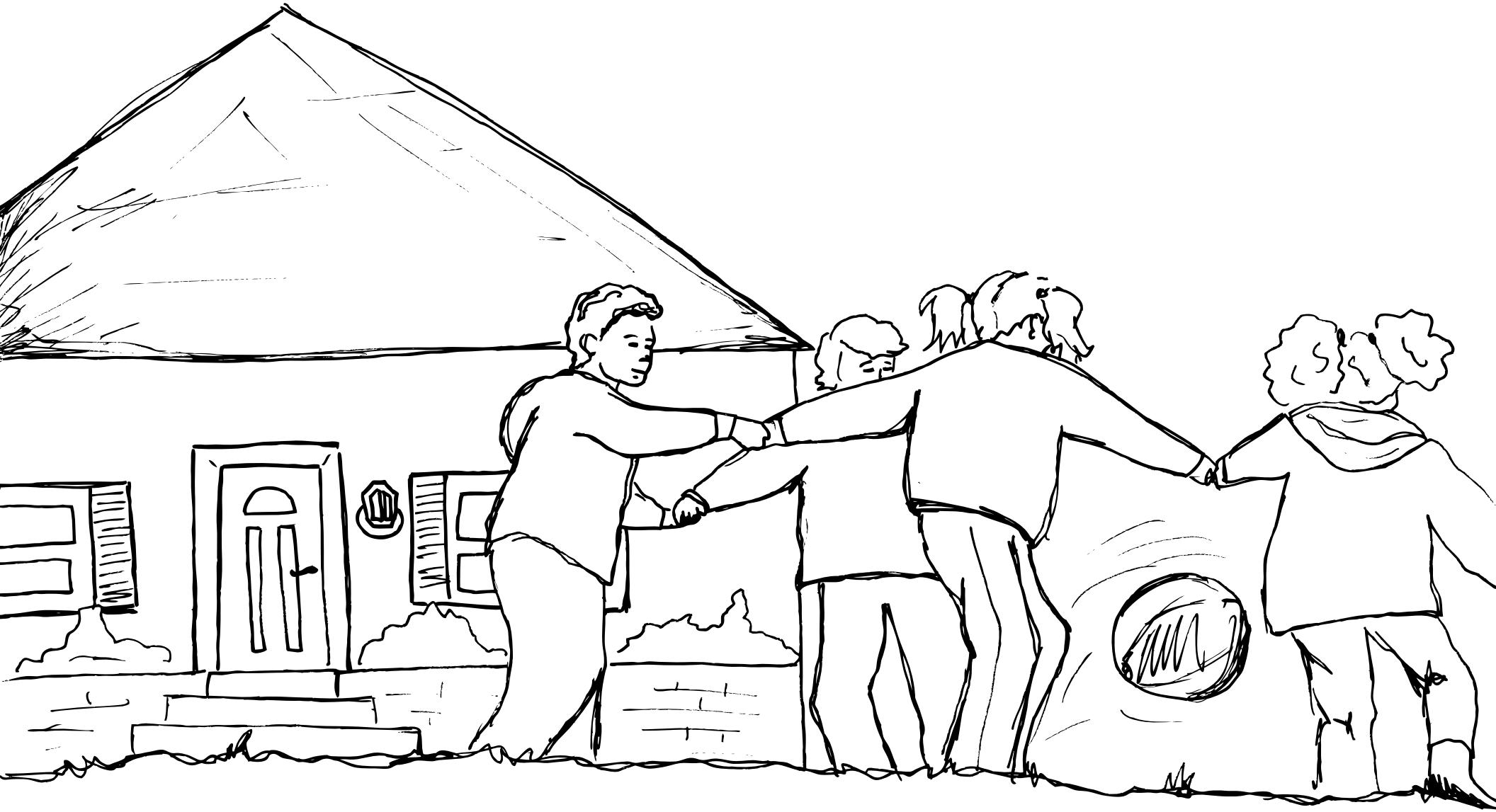

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