

Family Worship Guide – Week 38

READ

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25.

In this passage, Paul commands us to honor the elders (sometimes called “pastors” or “shepherds”) who watch over the church. Elders are men whom God has given to the church to lead God’s people. They do this largely through teaching and preaching, but also through making important decisions and protecting the church from false teachers.

Paul tells us that elders are worthy of “double honor.” This means that we should be careful to respect the elders that God has placed over His church.

There are two very specific ways that God commands us to honor elders. First, we should take care of the financial needs of our elders (v. 18). Many elders devote large portions of their time to studying and teaching the Word of God for the good of the church. This makes it extremely difficult for them to support themselves through another job. The Bible teaches that the church ought to financially support this type of elder.

The other way God specifically commands us to honor elders in this passage is found in verse 19. We should not even listen to an accusation against an elder unless more than one person can support the accusation. You see, sometimes Satan attacks the entire body by trying to divide the body against the leadership. We must fight against Satan’s schemes by fighting against his attempts to divide the church against her elders.

However, elders are not perfect and sometimes they do fall into sin. Because elders are shepherds over the flock of God, the church deals with their sin in a more serious way (v. 20). If an elder is confronted with his sin and does not repent, the church is called to “rebuke him in the presence of all.” This serves as an example to the entire body. It shows that we take sin seriously in all members of the body, including the elders.

What we see in this passage is that being an elder is an extremely serious calling. That is why Paul tells Timothy, “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others.” (v. 22) Paul is saying that we need to be extremely careful about the men that we ordain as elders. We need to recognize that this is a high calling from God and once a man becomes an elder, we must treat him with the honor that is worthy of that calling.

Questions:

How can you as an individual and as a family show honor to the elders in this faith family?

How will you as an individual and as a family commit to praying for the elders in this faith family?

Bottom Line: Scripture commands us to honor the elders that God has placed over our faith family.

PRAY

This week we are praying for Brook Hills’ ESL (English as a Second Language) ministry. This ministry exists to share the gospel and disciple Spanish-speaking individuals by meeting spiritual and relational needs while attending to their need for English-language learning. The main text of the curriculum is the Bible in English. As Christ-followers share and demonstrate the gospel, God opens the hearts of Hispanics to the truth of the cross.

SING

This week our family worship song is ‘Jesus Paid It All’. The standard of God’s righteousness is holy and perfect. It is a standard that we cannot meet by our own effort because our hearts are full of sin. Therefore, even our good deeds are like filthy rags. Our only hope when standing before God is that he will judge us, not according to what we have done, but according to what Christ has done for us. Jesus paid the penalty that we could never afford through his death and resurrection. So, we praise our Savior for the sacrifice of his life that washed us of our deepest stains of sin and made us white as snow.

MEMORIZE

1 Timothy 5:17 “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.”

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, a favorite family CD and a CD player.
- Read 1 Timothy 5:17 with you preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler that you want him or her to listen closely to your instructions. Tell them that when the music is loud, you want them to clap their hands. When the music is soft, you want them to put their finger over their mouth and say "shh". After you have played this game for a few minutes, praise your child for following the directions and the rules of the game.
- God gave us a set of rules in the Bible called "The Ten Commandments". He gave us other rules and directions in the Bible. He also gave us parents to take care of us and other leaders to help guide us and protect us. Elders are the leaders in our church. We should respect and obey them because they give us directions. God loves us so much that he created these rules for us and gave us these leaders to guide and direct us. When we obey them, we show God how much we love him. His rules are always right. They are always good for us. When we follow them, other people can see how much we love God too.
- Questions: Who are some people that help take care of you? (Let your child give specific names. For example, Grandma, a babysitter, a teacher, etc.) Do you know the names of the elders in our church? (Give your child some of their specific names.)
- God has given you lots of people to take care of you. God really loves you.
- Now, pray with your child. Pray for all the people you've listed by name and pray for the elders.

Children

- Re-read 1 Timothy 5:17.
- Ask your children: What does it mean to show honor to another person? It means to show them respect, to obey their instruction, etc.
- Explain that just as God has placed mom and dad as their authority in the home, God has given us authorities in the church that we are to honor and submit to. These leaders are called elders.
- To help make the role of elders more concrete, use the following visual illustration to demonstrate the parallel between the role of parents and that of elders in the local church.
- On a large pad of paper or poster board draw a line down the center to form two columns. On one side write "The Home" and on the other "The Church". List the following parallels:
 - Home: Parents are given for the provision of children. Invite your children to share examples and list them on the poster – parents provide food, clothing, shelter, transportation, love, etc.
 - Church: Elders provide for the spiritual needs of those within a local church – they provide biblical teaching, model a life of godliness and obedience, make important decisions, etc.
 - Home: Parents offer protection to their children – guard them from dangerous people or places.
 - Church: Elders serve as a layer of protection for a local church – they protect members from false teaching and make sure that what is taught lines up with the truth of the Bible.
- When we see all that parents do to provide for and protect their children it should lead us to give thanks and praise to God and to honor and respect parents. In the same way seeing all that elders do to serve our church leads us to thank God for providing such a good gift (James 1:17) and to show honor to those elders.
- Pray as a family and thank God for the elders he has provided for the provision and protections within this faith family and ask for God's help to show those elders the honor they are due.

Students

- Discuss some specific ways in which you can honor the elders at Brook Hills. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Choose one elder each week to lift up in prayer.
 - Pray that his private relationship with the Lord would be deep, consistent, and empowering.
 - Pray for his Christ-like leadership over his family.
 - Pray for his effectiveness in teaching and leading the church.
 - Pray for his influence for the gospel in the local community and among the nations.

- Speak or write a word of thanks and encouragement to an elder.
 - Thank him for his Christ-like example.
 - Thank him for his faithful teaching and stewardship of the Gospel.
 - Thank him for his wise leadership.
- Seek out ways to serve an elder and his family.
 - Provide a meal.
 - Provide childcare.
 - Provide for needs within the home.
- Protect the name and reputation of every elder.
 - Stifle any accusation made against an elder without “the evidence of two or three witnesses” (1 Tim. 5:19).
 - Speak of elders in a way that is “good for building up...that it may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4:29).

Our Elders Are:

Keith Anderson
Donnie Arrant
Jonathan Bean
Warren Beason
Dennis Blythe
Bart Box
Ted Brooker
Andrew Fanning

Bob Flanders
Riley Green
Mark Hinson
Jim Houston
Scott James
Dale Kendrick
Brian Massey
Jim Merriwether

David Platt
Keith Stanley
Chad Stubbs
Britten Taylor
Deric Thomas
Cory Varden
Mark Whitehead
Buddy Wise

Prayer

Week 38

Lives/Church

This week, we are studying the relationship between elders and the rest of the faith family. We have seen that elders are worthy of double honor due to their high calling of shepherding the flock of God. Spend some time praying for our elders here at Brook Hills. Pray that God would protect their personal holiness and the purity of their doctrine. Pray that God would protect their families and that he would give them wisdom to know how to lead and protect the sheep at Brook Hills. Finally, ask God if there are any specific ways that you might be able to show honor to your elders and seek His help in doing so.

Local

Local Church: Riverchase Presbyterian - Rick Atkinson

Focus: Brook Hills' English as a Second Language Ministry - this ministry exists to share the gospel and disciple Spanish-speaking folks through English-language learning.

Monday: Praise God for the volunteers who help share the Word by teaching English on Sunday. Ask the Lord to bring more people to join their efforts (victor.cobo@vicotek.com).

Tuesday: Ask God to save Hispanics currently in the ministry. Pray they will begin to share the gospel with their friends and families here and in their home countries.

Wednesday: Ask God for more Hispanics to join the ESL outreach. Pray that God will calm their fears and reservations.

Thursday: Pray that God will lead current BH small groups to invite Hispanics to meet with them to practice English and hear the gospel.

Friday: Ask God to raise up Brook Hills' members to begin bi-lingual small groups in their homes where Hispanics can come to fellowship while learning English and the Word.

Saturday: Ask God to lead ESL participants to join an evangelical local church worship gathering where they will hear the Word taught.

Global

Short Term Teams: The Middle East and India

Partner: Neverthirst

Monday: In India, some 130 million people live without access to clean water. Pray for Neverthirst as they provide villages with clean water and a clear picture of the love of Christ.

Tuesday: Pray for God to give wisdom to the Neverthirst leadership as they use their resources and platform to make Christ known in India and around the world.

Wednesday: Neverthirst's 'adopt a village' program brings women into a program where they hear the gospel, are disciplined by the local church and equipped to care for the village water well. Pray for the women in India who are a part of these programs to know Christ and find fulfillment in the education they receive.

Thursday: Pray that churches that receiving water wells will use this access to clean water as a platform to share the gospel with people in the village who have never heard of Christ.

Friday: Pray for God to use Neverthirst to help expose others to the need in India and around the world for people to have access to clean water.

Saturday: Pray for the church to grow in India as a result of people having access to clean water and the message of Christ who is the living water.

Scripture Memory

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching." 1 Timothy 5:17

Jesus Paid It All

by Samuel W. Beazley and M.S. Schaffer
Arrg. by John Thomas Grape, Elvina M. Hall
and Alex Nifong

I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all

Jesus paid it all
All to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone
Can change the lepers spots
And melt the heart of stone

And when before the throne
I stand in him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Oh praise the one who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead

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