

## Family Worship Guide – Week 41

### READ

This week we continue our study of First Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor in the church at Ephesus. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to tell him how he should lead the church.

Paul was the missionary who had planted the church at Ephesus and preached there for three years (Acts 20:31).

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Paul begins by speaking to those who are “rich in this present age.” By using the phrase “this present age,” Paul is reminding us that there is another age to come. This world is not all there is. Believers should not put their hope in the fleeting riches of this age, but in God, who richly gives us all things (6:17).

Paul tells rich people not to be “haughty,” another word for “proud” or “arrogant.” (6:17) Some of these rich people were tempted to think of themselves as better or more important than the poor. Paul reminds them that they should not boast in their riches, but they should only boast in God, for everything they have is a gift from God.

Paul then tells us that we should seek to “do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” (6:18). If we are truly trusting in God, we do not feel the need to keep all of our possessions for ourselves. That frees us up to give generously to other people in need. Rather than seeking to be rich with the riches of this age, we should seek to be rich in good works. Material wealth will not bring eternal blessing, but a life lived for the glory of God and the good of other people will (6:19).

#### Questions:

How can your family be rich in good works? How can you share generously with other people who are in need? Are you trusting in your riches, or are you trusting in God?

**Bottom Line:** If we truly trust God, we will give generously to those in need.

### PRAY

This week we are praying for the ministry of Restoration Academy, a Christian school located in Fairfield. They provide a safe, gospel-centered environment where students experience quality academic instruction and redemptive discipline, develop character, learn appropriate social skills, and develop courage to pursue their God-given callings for their life.

### SING

Let’s continue in worship by singing ‘Forever Reign’ written by Reuben Morgan and Jason Ingram. This song reminds us that the riches of God’s love will always be enough. Even in a world fighting for our affections, we can hold strong to the truths we find in scripture. In Philippians 3:8, Paul says, “Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” Paul understood what it meant to know Christ. He found his contentment in Him. As we sing let’s rejoice in who God is, and how he provides for our every need. Our God is good, and He is enough.

### MEMORIZE

1 Timothy 6:17 “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly gives us everything to enjoy.”

### 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 large jar or can, glue, paper, stickers, scissors, etc.
- Ready 1 Timothy 6:17 with your child.
- Create a “giving” jar your family can use to collect money for a needy family. As the jar fills, decide as a family where to contribute the money and help your children invest themselves in the process. Here are some examples to help your children take a personal interest in raising money to purchase items for the project:
  - Do chores that are in addition to their regular chores and responsibilities at home.
  - Set up a lemonade stand or car wash.
  - Have a garage sale or bake sale.
  - Finally, give your children the chance to experience sacrifice in order to give.
  - To make the lesson real, let the children take the whole jar – pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and all – to the store to pay for the gifts. Your child will see the direct connection between their little sacrifices and their ability to give.
- Remember to explain to your preschooler that God is loving and merciful and He wants us to be loving, giving, helpful and merciful to other people too. God wants us to show His love to everyone. God knows every need we have and cares for us and wants us to care for others too.

## Children

- Read 1 Timothy 6:19-21. Discuss some of the vocabulary with your child(ren). What does “haughty” mean? It means proud. What does “this present age” refer to? It means our lives now, as opposed to eternity, when we will be with God forever.
- Name someone that you think is rich. Why are they rich? Most people think that anyone who has more than them is rich. But think about these things:
  - 75% (or 3 out of 4) of families in the world live on \$3,000 or less a year (according to UNICEF). That means that the family has less than \$8 a day to spend on 4 people.
  - The average American family makes \$47,000 a year, which ends up being \$129 a day to spend on the same 4 people.
  - The average family in Shelby County makes \$65,000 a year, which ends up being \$178 a day to spend on 4 people. That’s \$170 more than most of the world’s population.
  - A Chick-fil-A® Kid’s meal costs around \$3, a McDonald’s Big Mac costs about \$5, and a pair of kid’s jeans at Old Navy costs about \$15. 3 out of 4 families in the world will never be able to buy any of these things.
- So who is rich? You are! Almost every American is rich, very rich! We tend to think of rich people as millionaires, movies stars, famous athletes, but that is a wrong view of wealth. God has blessed people living in America with great wealth, and we must be careful to love God and not our stuff or money.
- What does Paul tell Timothy to warn the rich Christians about? Pride, trusting in wealth or money instead of God. Why are these issues that rich people will specifically struggle with? If you are rich, you can easily think that you are better than others who have less. It is also much harder to depend on God for everything when you have plenty of money to buy the things that you need.
- What is your first reaction when you see a person in an old, beat-up car? Or maybe a kid at school who wears old clothes that are not cool and maybe even a little too small for them? If you avoid them or are maybe even a little afraid of them, that is pride. Pride is very bad, because it keeps us from getting to know people that God loves and that we should love, too.
- Read James 1:17. Who gives us all of the good things in our life? God does. They are actually His, but He gives them as gifts to us, His children. We should remember this and not be prideful, but willing to share and help others.
- Read Matthew 6:19-21. Where does Jesus say that we should store up things for ourselves? In heaven. Here’s another way to think of this – how we spend our money shows what we think is most important to us. This is our treasure. Do you always want more things for yourself, or do you want to give to help others? Also read 1 Tim 6:8. Paul says that we should be content with food and clothing. Wow, what a challenge!
- Paul gives three commands to the rich (to us). What are they?
  - To seek to do good, not to seek more money or things
  - To be rich in good works (God has a very different view of what is valuable)
  - To be generous and ready to share (God blesses us so that we can use our money to bless others)
- Discuss as a family how you are already obeying these three commands. Then think about ways that you can possibly do more to fulfill these commands. Especially in light of the upcoming holidays, your family may want to come up with a specific amount of money or a project where you can intentionally be generous with what God has given you.
- Pray and thank God for His blessings and provision for your family. Pray for those who live in impoverished areas of the

world. Ask God to give you great contentment and giving hearts.

### Students

- Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
  - As we look at these verses, it is important for us to know their context. Why is Paul focusing on riches and wealth? Does this seem out of place?
  - Go back and read 1 Timothy 6:2b-5. What kind of teachers is Paul talking about in these verses?
  - Now read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.
    - What is Paul's focus in these verses?
    - What does it mean to be content?
    - What are the things that will ultimately last? Things of this world?
    - In verse 9, does Paul say that it is wrong to be rich or to desire to be rich in the things of this world?
    - Why? What does the love of money lead to? (Vs. 9-10)
  - In the next few verses, Paul kind of changes the tone of his teaching to Timothy. Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16.
    - What is Paul's focus in these verses?
    - What does Paul tell Timothy to do in response to the things in the preceding verses?
    - Why would Paul tell Timothy to "flee" and "fight" against the things that he spoke of in verses 2b-10?
    - How does this apply to verses 17-19?
  - Now to verses 17-19.
    - What is Paul encouraging the rich to do? What are they to be rich in?
    - If you are focusing on being "rich in good works", how will that effect any desire to gain more worldly riches?
    - Do you think it is easier to focus on the things of God when you are focused on other people rather than yourself?
- Are you as a family seeking after worldly wealth?
- What can you do to focus more on the things of God?
- What is one thing that your family can do to focus on someone else and blessing them?

## Prayer

### Lives/Church

This week we have been studying Paul's teaching on godliness and contentment. We have seen that godliness and contentment go hand in hand and produce generosity toward those in need. Pray that God make us a people who are so delighted in Christ that the pleasures of sin lose all of their appeal. Pray that God would make us a people who treasure Christ so highly that we will gladly lose all that we have in order to gain Christ. Pray that these sentiments would not be mere words, but that they would translate into holy living and sacrificial love for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor.

### Local

**Local Church:** Trinity United Methodist - Andrew Wolfe

**Focus:** Restoration Academy - a Christian school located in Fairfield.

**Monday:** Pray for the gospel to be platformed continually through the faculty, staff, and students who are Christ-followers at Restoration Academy to all the students and the Fairfield community.

**Tuesday:** Pray for healing and spiritual growth for their greatest at-risk students, especially those from Grace House and The Lovelady Center.

**Wednesday:** Pray for God's continual provision for the school's financial support. Most students attend on scholarship.

**Thursday:** Pray for the restoration and revitalization of the community of Fairfield where the school is located and pray for the many faculty members who have moved into the community to be involved in that process and to show the gospel through their lives.

**Friday:** Pray for academic and spiritual success for the current seniors as they make post-secondary plans.

**Saturday:** Pray for the safety of all Restoration Academy students, faculty, and staff and their families.

## Week 41

### Forever Reign

by Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan

You are good, You are good  
When there's nothing good in me  
You are love, You are love  
On display for all to see  
You are light, You are light  
When the darkness closes in  
You are hope, You are hope  
You have covered all my sin

You are peace, You are peace  
When my fear is crippling  
You are true, You are true  
Even in my wandering  
You are joy, You are joy  
You're the reason that I sing  
You are life, You are life,  
In You death has lost its sting

Oh, I'm running to Your arms,  
I'm running to Your arms  
The riches of Your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world forever reign

You are more, You are more  
Than my words will ever say  
You are Lord, You are Lord  
All creation will proclaim  
You are here, You are here  
In Your presence I'm made whole  
You are God, You are God

Oh, I'm running to Your arms  
I'm running to Your arms  
The riches of Your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world forever reign

My heart will sing  
no other Name  
Jesus, Jesus

Oh, I'm running to Your arms  
I'm running to Your arms  
The riches of Your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world forever reign

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### Scripture Memory

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