

Family Worship Guide – Week 2

READ

Acts 3:1-10

One day, as Peter and John were going up to the temple to pray, a lame man asked them for alms (money). It was a common custom in that day for people who could not provide for themselves to sit near the temple courts and ask for money from the people who were going into the temple to worship. Although this man asked for money, Peter and John gave him something much better: they gave him the ability to walk!

Here we see that the Holy Spirit had given the apostles the power to carry on the same healing ministry that Jesus had when He was on the earth. Just as Jesus had made the lame walk, so now the apostles were able to command a lame man to walk. In this miracle, we see that Jesus is continuing to carry on His ministry through the apostles. The same power that Jesus had to make the lame walk would now reside in His church.

Acts 3:11-26

The people who saw this lame man walking and leaping and praising God were obviously quite amazed at this sight. This man had never walked...and he was more than forty years old! But Peter took this opportunity to tell them about something even more amazing, more miraculous.

Peter tells the crowd that he has not made this man well by his own power, but that the power of Christ has made this lame man walk. The very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is the power that raised this lame man up from his mat. This miraculous healing of the lame man points to a greater miracle, the resurrection of Jesus, and the promise of eternal life for everyone who trusts in Him.

This is important for us to understand today. Jesus does not promise to heal everyone who trusts in Him in this life. But He does promise forgiveness of sins and the hope of the resurrection for all who trust in Him (3:19).

Acts 4:1-12

The religious leaders were not happy with Peter and John for preaching about Jesus. These religious leaders were the very same men who had planned to have Jesus crucified only a few weeks earlier. They had hated Jesus, they did not want people following Jesus, and they certainly didn't want people saying that Jesus had risen from the dead!

Peter and John responded with courage and boldness. These religious leaders had handed Jesus over to be crucified, but Peter and John were not afraid. Instead, they stood firm and preached the gospel, stating clearly that Jesus is the Messiah and the Only Savior. He is the Anointed King of the Universe and anyone who wants to escape the judgment of God must submit to King Jesus.

Acts 4:13-22

The boldness of these uneducated, common men astounds the rulers. It is remarkable that the Jewish leaders never even attempted to refute Peter and John's claim that Jesus had risen from the dead. They simply commanded them to stop preaching. Peter and John knew that God and His truth are on their side, and so they boldly declared that they would obey God rather than man.

Questions:

Peter is very clear that salvation is only found in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Have you trusted in Jesus for salvation? Have you submitted your life to King Jesus?

If salvation is only found in Jesus, what does that mean for those who have never heard of Jesus? How does this increase our sense of the urgent need to make disciples of all nations?

What are some ways that preaching the gospel is unpopular? How will you respond when people tell you to stop speaking about Jesus? Will you obey God or man?

Bottom Line: Jesus is the Sovereign King and the Only Savior.

PRAY

This week we are concentrating our prayers as a church family on Divine Faith Baptist Church. We all know that our city

has struggled with racial strife over the past 50 years. Caucasians left the urban areas of Birmingham in droves beginning in the 60's leaving the inner city areas without as many strong churches or a strong tax base for schools, community development, and housing projects. Many of the housing projects became a hotbed for crime, especially drug trafficking. Over the last ten years, many suburban Christians have begun to focus on "loving their neighbor" in word and deed in the urban areas. Our church has begun to concentrate more on the Gate City and East Lake areas of Birmingham. One of our partners in Gate City is Divine Faith Baptist Church right next door to the Marks Village housing project. We have worked alongside Pastor Chris Stewart and his congregation over the last nine months to share and show the love of Christ to those living in Marks Village. Now, Pastor Stewart is asking for six or eight people from Brook Hills to pray about coming alongside them as church members for at least one year to help heal some of the racial wounds from the past and to facilitate racial reconciliation in his church and the Marks Village area. He needs believers with real servant and humble hearts to help provide additional leadership and to show that we are all one family in Christ. Our local adult team is asking each of us to pray about being one of those six or eight people and let the team know if God puts this burden on your heart. Please see the Prayer Card for additional guided prayer this week.

SING

In Acts chapters three and four, we see how the apostles are continually strengthened by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel. Now this good news that Jesus truly is the Messiah is spreading, and the church is growing. In light of this text, "Mighty to Save" by Hillsong is our family worship song this week. As we sing of the gospel, we are encouraged to realize we have the very same power and grace as did the apostles in the first century. Like them, we are saved from our sins, we submit to His lordship over our lives, and we shine His light to "let the whole world see."

Please follow the link on the website to download and listen to this song together as a family. The lyrics are provided at the end of this guide as a song sheet while you listen and participate.

MEMORIZE

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

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

- Read Acts 4:12 with your preschooler.
- Talk to your preschooler about his/her name and why you chose their name and discuss its meaning.
- Ask your preschooler, "Do you know why the name, Jesus, is the most important name? The name Jesus means 'the Lord saves!'"
- As the Son of God, Jesus is the only one who can save a man, woman, boy or girl from sin (bad choices). Jesus is the boss! Jesus is the only way to be saved – nothing else works. That is one powerful name!
- Questions: Do you believe that Jesus can do anything? Do you know Jesus has all power?
- Conclude by re-reading Acts 4:12 with your preschooler.

Children

- As a family, re-read Acts 4:12.
- Have you ever felt pressure not to speak about Jesus to others because it would be "uncool"? How did you respond?
- Explain that the same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in you if you are a follower of Christ. This power enables us to proclaim the good news about Jesus with boldness.
- Ask your children to imagine a battle between two armies. Side A has only sticks and rocks. Side B has tanks, fighter jets, helicopters, and battle ships. Which side would have more confidence? The people on Side B would have great confidence because of their powerful weapons.
- Followers of Jesus have the most powerful force on earth alive inside of them!
- Pray as a family that God would allow you to walk in the Holy Spirit's power as you obey Jesus' command to bring the gospel to all peoples. Ask God for opportunities this week to show Christ's love to others and to and speak the truth of the gospel to them.

Students

- Read Acts 3:1-7. Remind everyone that Peter and John were going about their everyday schedules when an opportunity to show the power of God arose.
- As a family, create a list of as many items as possible that are lifeless or useless without an external power source. (Examples: A puppet, a remote control car, a flashlight, and a television.)
- Ask the family how powered devices perform with failing or low batteries? What happens that lets you know the batteries are running low? When your batteries run low, how do you fix that problem? (Recharge or replace them) Ask, "Wouldn't it be great if we could have batteries that never ran out for our phones, iPods and computers?"
- Explain that if you are a believer in Christ, you have been given the same power that made a lame man walk, the blind see, and raised Jesus from the grave. Relying on any inferior power to live our lives would be foolish...even if it were our own power.
- Read Acts 3:11-13. Peter recognized that his power was not from himself. He makes it clear that any power seen in him was a direct reflection of Christ in him.

Prayer

Week 2

Lives/Church

In Acts 3-4, we see the advance of the church in the power of the Spirit. Incredibly, all this occurs through ordinary men and women! This week, spend some thanking God for the Spirit's power in building Christ's church. After that, ask God to remind you of your place in this work and to deepen your conviction to serve Him (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Local

Focus: Ministry initiatives at DFBC

Local Church: Divine Faith Baptist Church,
Pastor Chris Stewart

Monday: Pray about possibly joining DFBC for at least one year to help provide additional leadership and help facilitate racial reconciliation.

Tuesday: Pray that those going to join DFBC from TCABH would exhibit humility and Christ-like servant hood in their words and deeds.

Wednesday: Pray for Pastor Stewart as he seeks to lead current members and future members to embrace and love one another without respect to color or economic standing.

Thursday: Pray that God would continue to grant forgiveness in the hearts of people in Marks Village for the abandonment they have felt by Caucasians and churches in the suburbs.

Friday: Pray that the gospel would continue to advance through the people of DFBC and TCABH as we work together in 2011.

Saturday: Pray for wisdom for DFBC and TCABH leaders as we address social justice issues together in a way that is gospel-centered and brings great glory to Christ.

Scripture Memory

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Global

Partner: This week we are praying for Jason, our IMB partner in the Middle East.

Short Term Teams: Thailand

Monday: Pray for the 80 million unreached people where Jason and his team are working and sharing the gospel.

Tuesday: Pray for wisdom for Jason and his team as they strategize and seek access points in difficult places. Pray for open doors and favor in engaging the lost.

Wednesday: Pray for Jason and his family as they welcome a new baby into their family. Pray for transition as they move to a new Middle East location in the Spring.

Thursday: The Middle East is full of diversity among its people. Pray for the challenges this brings when trying to engage people and share the gospel.

Friday: Pray for moral purity for leaders on the field. Pray Christ would be the constant center of their focus as they lead others to know Him.

Saturday: Pray for laborers to come to the Middle East. They need people to go and help partner with them to share the gospel to an unreached people.

Mighty to Save

by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

Everyone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me

Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Savior
The Hope of nations

Savior, He can move the mountains
My God is Mighty to save
He is Mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again

I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

My Savior He can move the mountains
My God is Mighty to save
He is Mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Shine your light and
Let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory
Of the risen King...Jesus

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