

## Family Worship Guide – Week 4

### MEMORIZE

Matthew 4:19 – And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

### READ

Read Matthew 4:12-25.

Hundreds of years before Jesus came, Isaiah the prophet told about his coming: “...for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” Jesus is the light of the world that shines into the darkness. But what does this mean? We find out a bit more in John 8:12, when Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Often times in the Bible, darkness is one way to talk about what it’s like to be separated from God. We are separated from God because of our sin, yet God desires to cleanse us of our sin through Jesus. Jesus came as the light of the world, to call people to follow him and receive the light of life. Without Jesus we are dead in our sin and lost in darkness, because our hearts are full of sin. But Jesus offers us freedom from this if we would do what he says in this passage, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

If we will repent of our sin and seek Jesus, we can have the light of life and never walk in darkness again. This is the message of Jesus. He came to take on the darkness himself, and to give light to those who would repent and follow him.

#### Questions:

Have you been following Jesus without repenting? Repentance, or turning away from sin, is the core element of choosing to follow him. Talk together as a family and seek repentance together from your sins. Come to Jesus together in prayer, and offer him your darkness in exchange for his light.

Notice that the disciples in this story “immediately” leave their things to follow Jesus. Many people throughout the Gospel of Matthew are not ready to leave behind everything to follow Jesus. Is that something that you are willing to do? Is Jesus your treasure? Is he worth leaving everything to follow him?

**Bottom Line:** Come, repent, and follow Jesus: the Light of the world and the Lamb of God.

### SING

This week we will sing ‘All I Have Is Christ,’ a modern hymn written by Jordan Kauflin. This song talks about our helplessness to defeat sin and death apart from Christ. The author describes a sinner’s pursuit of joy that leads only to the grave. He delights in Christ’s faithful pursuit of us; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. The chorus celebrates the fact that Christ is all that we need and he is the only one worth boasting in.

As we sing, let’s celebrate our salvation and our Savior. He called us out of darkness and made us alive in him. We rejoice knowing that our hope and our righteousness are found only in Jesus Christ!

Visit our website for a download on this song: [http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this\\_week.html](http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html).

### 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 get a fishing pole or make a simple fishing pole with a stick and string. Draw a few fish on blue construction paper and help your child cut out the fish.
- Read Matthew 4:18-19 with your child.
- Now, pretend to go fishing.
- Explain to your child that Jesus asked Simon Peter and Andrew, who were fishermen, to follow him. He said that he would make them fishers of men. The brothers left their nets, boats and fish to follow Jesus.
- Jesus wants you and me to fish for people too. That means that he wants us to tell others about what he has done for all people. He wants us to share the good news of Jesus with everyone. God wants us to carry the news to all the people around us. He loved us so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins. He wants everyone to know that Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- Conclude by reading Matthew 4:18-19 again. Pray that God will help your family become fishers of men and thank him for sending Jesus.

### Children

- Materials Needed: blindfold for each child (made from thick dark material so it is opaque) fastened with clothespins.
- Remind your children that Jesus said he was the light of the world and that those who do not follow him are walking in darkness.
- Put blindfold on each child so he or she cannot see. Ask children why they could not follow someone while blindfolded. Answers could include “you can’t see the person or path”, or “everything would be dark all the time”.
- Tell your children that the blindfold keeps them from seeing the light the way sin keeps people from seeing that Jesus is the Light of the World.
- Tell your children that a follower of Christ helps others see that Jesus is the light of the world by telling them that Jesus can remove the blindfold of sin to take their darkness away and exchange it for light.
- Ask child to remove blindfold and hand it to you. Explain that going from darkness to light is like what happens when someone answers Jesus’ call to believe that he is the Light of the world and repents. The person gives up the darkness of sin and turns away from it after handing it to Jesus. Jesus exchanges the sin for his light. When the person takes part in this exchange by choosing to follow Jesus, this is salvation because the person is saved from the power and darkness of sin.
- Remind your children that a follower of Christ can tell someone that Jesus is the Light of the World, but no person can give salvation to another – only Jesus has the power to exchange and forgive sins. People used to bring a perfect lamb to be sacrificed by a priest as a payment to God for their sins. They would have to do this over and over again, because the sacrifice didn’t cover all of their sins. When Jesus offered his pure sinless life he was the Lamb of God – the sacrifice for all the sins of the whole world – who brought salvation to all who trust in him. His sacrifice was complete, and never has to be repeated.

### Students

- For this time of family worship, announce to your family that you are going to one of your favorite places to grab a treat. This may be a coffee, ice cream, or donut shop. It just needs to be a familiar place that your family enjoys going to that might provide a place of conversation once you arrive. When you leave, plan a spot along the route to intentionally go the wrong way. If you have teenagers they will relish the fact that they caught you doing something incorrectly.
- Gently insist you are sure you are going the right way to get home, and then find a safe place to pull the vehicle into a parking lot. Ask your family which way they think you should be going, and let them give you directions. (This is a great practical tool to help your younger students begin to become aware of how to get to common destinations as well). Congratulate them on paying attention.
- Next pull out your Bible or a copy of the passage Matthew 4:12-17 and read it to your family. Share with them that your driving adventure is the perfect example of repentance. Simply put, it is the turning away from sin (the wrong direction), and moving in the direction God has called you to go (follow him).
- Once you have finished making the biblical connection, ask your family to tell you the right way to go in order to reach your destination. Once you have arrived and everyone is seated together this would be the perfect opportunity to ask them if they have genuinely experienced this kind of real repentance in their lives. You could read the remaining section of the passage (verses 18-25) and simply make the point that each one of the disciples individually had to make the decision to repent and follow Christ. This would also be a great time to share when you had done this in your life as well!

