

Family Worship Guide – Week 15

MEMORIZE

Matthew 28:6 – “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”

READ

Read Matthew 28:1-15.

The truth of the resurrection is one of the most foundational realities for our lives as Christians. As Paul said, if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, our faith is in vain! Many people have come and gone throughout history, each with their own claim to what is true. But every one of them died and their graves are with us to this day. Only Jesus conquered death and is still alive.

When Jesus died, even his disciples were wondering if all that he said was true. His death meant that following him was no longer an option. But when Jesus rose from the dead it proved that he is one with the Father, and that his death accomplished what he said it would: the taking away of our sins.

The resurrection is proof that Jesus really is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! All that he said can be trusted and we can have faith that, if we turn from our sins and believe in him, we will have eternal life. We can have confidence that we are not following a god who is dead and lifeless, but the One true God who lives and reigns over us even now!

Questions:

What does this passage teach us about God? What does this passage teach us about man?

Are there any commands that we need to obey in this passage? Are there any promises that we can hope in?

What sticks out to you in this passage? What is your favorite part? What is your least favorite part? What part of Jesus' words bring the most joy to you?

Bottom Line: The resurrection of Jesus proves that he conquered death and the power of sin, and that all he said was true.

SING

This week we will sing a song written by Tim Hughes called 'Happy Day'. This is a song that celebrates the immense joy that comes from salvation through Christ. Many religions worship prophets who have died, but we worship the only One who has died and risen, conquering sin and death. The song says,

The greatest day in history, death is beaten
You have rescued me, sing it out Jesus is alive
The empty cross, the empty grave
Life eternal You have won the day
Shout it out Jesus is alive
He's alive!

This truly is the greatest day in history! By rising from the grave we see that Jesus is exactly who he says he is. Our God came to earth in human form, lived a perfect life, died a sinner's death, and rose from the grave victorious. He defeated the sin that separated us from him and made a way for us to be united with him forever. This is good news and definitely worth celebrating! Let's sing together with the joy that only comes from salvation through Jesus Christ.

Visit our website for a link to this song: 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, wrap an empty box like a gift or stuff an empty gift bag with tissue paper.
- Read Matthew 28:6 to your preschooler, then have your child open the gift.
- Ask them what they found. (Nothing!) I know you were excited to open the gift but sad to find nothing in the box. The Bible tells us of something similar that happened to Mary. She went to see where they had put Jesus after he died on the cross, but the tomb was empty.
- Mary was sad too, but she didn't stay sad. Mary was happy to learn that Jesus had risen and was alive again. The verse we read says, "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said." Jesus is alive!
- Jesus always does what he says he will do. Jesus had to die on a cross to save us from our sins (bad choices). He had to be buried in a tomb, but there is good news! Jesus did not stay dead. Jesus rose from the dead, and this is the good news! God's plans are always good plans!
- Pray with your preschooler and ask God to help you tell everyone the truth that Jesus is alive.

Children

- Materials needed: scissors, scrap paper, scrap cardboard.
- Ask your child(ren) how a person could prove they could do something. Answers might include: "they would have to actually do it", "they would have to offer evidence like a picture that showed it had been done", or "they would have to have another person say they had seen the person do it".
- Tell the child(ren) that Jesus did all three of these to show he could conquer death. He actually rose from the dead. He left behind an empty grave where his body had lain. An angel stated that Jesus had risen as he had said he would, and Jesus also appeared alive to the disciples and many others after having risen from the grave.
- Ask your child(ren) if it would be easier to cut cardboard or paper. Certainly since the cardboard is thicker and stronger it would be harder to cut, so if the scissors could cut the cardboard then they could cut the paper. Demonstrate cutting cardboard first, then paper.
- When Jesus said he would die to pay the penalty of everyone's sins and then rise from the dead to conquer death and break the power of sin in our lives, that sounded impossible. After Jesus' resurrection, he proved he had overcome death and that what he had said was true. It also showed us we can trust him to free us from the power of sin in our lives.

Students

- We know that the resurrection is foundational to our faith. But in what ways? Below are some suggestions for you to investigate as a family. Discuss how these ideas hinge on the resurrection being true.
 - Jesus is the Son of God (John 10:17-18)
 - There is a future resurrection of believers (1 Thes. 4:13)
 - There is a future Judgment (Acts 17:30-31)
 - We have a future inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3)
 - Christ intercedes for us perfectly and eternally (Heb. 7:23-28)
 - We have hope and power in this life (Eph. 1:18-20)
- Below are Scriptures describing some of Christ's appearances after dying on the cross. Discuss how these verses provide evidence for the resurrection.
 - Luke 24:33-36
 - John 20:19
 - Acts 1:3, 21-22
 - 1 Cor. 15:6
- If a non-believer asked why the resurrection matters, what would you tell him? Think about how you can simply and clearly communicate these truths and ultimately the Gospel story. It may be helpful to take turns role-playing with other family members.
- Can you imagine the excitement of the disciples at seeing the risen Jesus? Wouldn't it be life changing? Likewise, believers today are filled with joy and wonder at the thought of Christ's resurrection. Take a few minutes to share how the risen Jesus has changed *your* life. How does knowing a loving and all-powerful God make a difference in your thoughts, actions, relationships, and future? Take turns sharing your personal stories. They are evidence of the resurrected Christ at work today!

