

Family Worship Guide – Week 17

MEMORIZE

Matthew 17:20 – He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

READ

Read Matthew 17:1-27.

In the course of just a few events, the glory of Christ and his heavenly kingship are revealed to his disciples in a new way. As you read, notice where Jesus’ attention is: his death and resurrection. Jesus is making very clear to those following him that he is about to die, but his death has a purpose. Furthermore, he will rise from the dead and conquer death.

In addition to looking towards his death and resurrection, Jesus speaks to his disciples about what life will be like after these events. In verse 20, Jesus refers to an amazing truth. For those who believe in Christ, they are filled with his spirit. This means that they will be his ambassadors on the earth, carrying out his will by faith in his power through them.

As we come towards the end of Jesus’ life, it’s hard not to have a sense of anticipation. God himself has come to dwell with us in Christ. God as man looks forward to his death and resurrection and speaks of its great importance. Think of the glory of Christ revealed to us through this passage and talk together about how that glory should affect the way we live 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: Jesus is the glorious King of all who has died and yet lives forevermore!

SING

As we look at the kingship of Christ through the lens of his death and resurrection, we see great reason to rejoice in God as our refuge and strength. We see God’s perfect plan of redemption foreshadowed even before Jesus’ death on the cross and ultimately, his resurrection from the dead. In light of this, let’s sing this timeless hymn written by Martin Luther, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

Martin Luther (1483-1546) served as a leading voice during the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. Throughout his life, Luther felt a strong conviction to put Scripture into the ears and hands of the people in their vernacular so they could understand God’s Word. Eventually this led to his German translation of the New Testament 1522. Not only did he long for Scripture to be available to all people, he also yearned for all Christians to join in singing praises to God. This hymn is evidence of just that. Luther wrote this hymn as a paraphrase of Psalm 46. It exudes proclamation of the greatness of God. Let’s proclaim his greatness together right now!

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: purchase or print a photo of mustard seeds, print a picture of mustard plants from the Internet. Open

your Bible to Matthew 17:20.

- Read the verse and show your child the mustard seed. Explain that a mustard seed is very, very tiny, but once planted, it grows into a plant large enough to provide valuable food and shelter for animals. God's kingdom is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed that you plant in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all the plants in the garden. God's kingdom is the people that follow Jesus. Jesus started by himself, telling others all about God's love. The more people he told, the more people began to believe and follow him. More people will choose to follow Jesus if we show them and tell them he loves them.
- God loves us so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, to save us! He sent his son Jesus to earth. 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.
- God can take our small amount of faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed, and make it grow. He will help our faith grow and help us tell others the good news about Jesus.
- Conclude by praying with your preschooler.

Children

- Talk together about things that change (caterpillars to butterflies, seeds to flowers, eggs to chickens, etc.).
- Read Matthew 17:1-13.
- In this passage some of the disciples go up on a mountain with Jesus, and while they are there Jesus is transfigured. Explain that the word transfigure means to transform or to change. Ask what changes the disciples saw in Jesus. When Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, the disciples saw first hand that Jesus was not just a man, not just a prophet, but the Son of God. They saw a glimpse of the glory Jesus would attain through his death on the cross and resurrection.
- Discuss the changes that take place when we surrender ourselves to the lordship of Christ (new heart, new desires, empowered by the Holy Spirit, etc.).
- Reread Matthew 17:5. God told the disciples to listen to Jesus. Write the verse down at the top of a piece of paper or poster board. Make a list together of things Jesus said in scripture along with the scripture reference.
- Pray together for ears to hear what Jesus says and hearts to obey his commands.

Students

- Begin by praying together as a family.
- Read Matthew 17:1-27.
- Before discussing the "Questions" above, walk through the following points as a family.
- In verses 1-8, Jesus is "transfigured." This word means to change in appearance or outward form. Jesus reveals his divine form and glory to Peter, James, and John on the mountain. Although Jesus always had this divine glory, no one on earth had seen it yet. Jesus took this opportunity to show his disciples who he truly was.
 - Where else had the disciples seen glimpses of Jesus' glory throughout Matthew? Where have you seen Jesus' glory revealed? (Examples: in nature, in working out an impossible situation, in someone's kindness, etc.)
 - How did the transfiguration affect the disciples? (v. 6)
 - The word "terrified" means to be greatly reverent and to obediently worship. It is the emotion that follows looking on something so great it deserves to be lifted up.
 - What do you think about during worship in large groups? Is it easy to forget to whom you are singing? Do you think that being reminded of Jesus' glory will affect your worship? Does it affect your life? Does it lead you to worship?
- It is only after realizing who Jesus is that the disciples are ready to receive his teaching in verses 19-21. The magnitude of a person's faith is not based on the amount of trust they can produce but the greatness of the one in whom they place their trust.
 - Why is it important to know who Jesus is? How does that change the strength or weakness of faith? (If we see God as a big God, then our faith will be big. If he is small, our faith is small.)
 - How big do you see God? Do you see him as able to move mountains? What impossible things have you seen God do?
 - How can you strengthen your faith today?

