

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 21

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 3:11 – For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17.

This week we are studying unity in local bodies of Christ-followers. There is obviously a great deal about this topic we could discuss. However, in our times of family worship, we simply want to highlight two truths. The first is that for unity to exist a church must have a solid foundation. The only foundation that will suffice, of course, is Jesus Christ. The second truth we want to see is that the church is the dwelling place of God in the Spirit in the lives of the members.

Questions:

How is Jesus the foundation of the church?

What does it mean that members of the church are the temple?

How does the Spirit's dwelling develop unity among Christ-followers?

Bottom Line: The church is the dwelling place of God in the Spirit, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

SING

As we consider the biblical truth that Christ is our foundation that brings His church body together in unity, what better song is there to continue our worship than “Jesus, Firm Foundation”? This is a contemporary arrangement of the traditional hymn, “How Firm A Foundation”, published in 1787 by John Rippon. Let these words strengthen and encourage you as you sing them, “How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!”

Visit our website for a link to this song: 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 you will need to gather various sized books. Make sure you have different sizes and shapes to effectively stack the books.
- Explain to your preschooler that together you are going to build a tall tower out of the books. Tell them you will need to find the strongest and largest book to begin building our tower. This book will be the foundation, because it is the strongest book. The foundation has to be strong and great or the tower will not be able to become very tall. Once the foundation is chosen, build a tower out of the books.
- Say, “Wow, our tower is great! Our tower is great because together, we carefully chose to build it with a strong book foundation. Would you like to hear a story from the Bible about another strong foundation?”
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17 with your preschooler.
- Tell your preschooler that the Bible tells us that Jesus is the only foundation for the church. It's important to explain that God's people are the church, not just a building. Just like we were very careful when we chose the strongest book for the foundation of our tower, God wants us to know that it's important to make sure that Jesus is the most important foundation for us, His church.
- When Christ is our foundation, meaning that we love, believe, follow and worship Him, then the church will grow and be strong like Him. So, in everything we do, we need to follow Christ. When we follow Jesus, He will always be with us. He is the foundation or bottom that holds everything up! Jesus is great! He is our strong tower!

- Pray and ask God to be the strong foundation for your family.

Children

- Gather some legos or another kind of building blocks. Find a comfortable place to sit with your child.
- Ask your child to start building a house or building. You can build something as well or help them with their creation. Ask them what the most important step in building might be and allow them to share some ideas.
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17.
- Ask your child if they know what a foundation is and what its purpose is. Explain that a foundation is what the rest of the house or building is built upon. Without a good foundation, a house will not be stable. Eventually the foundation might crack and become uneven and this would affect the walls and eventually the ceiling and the rest of the house. Emphasize that the foundation is the first and most important step in building.
- Have your child look at the building they built. Ask them if they started with a good foundation. If they didn't, ask them how they could build it stronger if they started over.
- Explain that in this passage in 1 Corinthians, Paul is telling us about the foundation of the church. Read verse 11 again and ask your child what this verse tells us about the foundation that was laid (Jesus Christ is the foundation).
- Ask your child if they can explain how Jesus is the foundation of the church (He trained the leaders of the first church, and He ushered in the start of the early church). Emphasize that without Christ's life, death, and resurrection, the church would not have been formed.
- Ask your child to think about ways the church can build and maintain a strong foundation (study God's Word, correct each other, encourage one another, pray together, serve together, etc.).
- Tell your child that this passage tells us something else about Christians. Remind them that the church is the body of Christ. Read verse 16 again and explain that this verse tells us that Christians are God's temple and they have God's Spirit living in them. God's Spirit dwells in His temple, and Christians are His temple.
- Ask your child to think of how we are different as Christians because of the Spirit living in us. How does the Spirit help us?
- Tell your child that the Spirit living inside of Christians will help them live in unity as the body of Christ. Explain that since we all have the same Spirit, when we follow that Spirit together we walk in unity.
- Finish up by reminding your child that the church is founded on Christ, and as Christians we are not only part of the church, we are also His temple. We have the Spirit living in us, helping us to grow in Christ and walk in unity with other believers.

Students

- **Prep**
 - Gather supplies: bread, peanut butter, jelly, spoon or knife, 2 plates
 - Pray. Ask the Lord to reveal truth that you might grow in knowledge and understanding.
- **Introduction**
 - What all do we need to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?
 - What if we only use peanut butter and jelly?
 - On one plate, spread the peanut butter and jelly as if it were on a sandwich.
 - Is this a real peanut butter and jelly sandwich? Why not? What is the difference?
 - On the second plate, place two slices of bread on the plate and spread the peanut butter and jelly on top.
 - What is the difference in this sandwich?
 - Is the bread necessary?
 - Why? The bread provides the foundation.
 - Without a foundation, the peanut butter and jelly are kind of just messy chaos.
 - You can't really eat it like a sandwich.
 - It can't fulfill its purpose (being a sandwich) without the bread.
 - In the same way, the church cannot fulfill its purpose if Jesus is not the foundation.
- **Discussion**
 - Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17.
 - Why is Jesus the foundation of the church?
 - What does it look like for Jesus to be the foundation?
 - What would happen if a church were founded on something or someone else?
 - How can we as members of the church be founded in Christ?
 - What does it mean that members of the church are the temple?
- How does the Spirit's dwelling develop unity among Christ-followers?