

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 26

MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 6:13 – “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

READ

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-13.

The people of Corinth didn't see much issue with seeking out pleasure wherever it might be found. This was true about a variety of temptations including both food and sex. The topic of sex and sexual immorality can be difficult to discuss with our children, especially our younger ones. However, in the latter half of 1 Corinthians 6, and particularly in these two verses, the biblical truth we learn is applicable far beyond sexual issues. That truth is that our greatest pleasure is to be found in God and not in any offering this world presents us with.

Questions:

What kinds of things bring you pleasure or make you happy?
How can our indulgence in pleasurable things sometimes lead us to sin?
How do we find pleasure, especially physical pleasure, in God?

Bottom Line: Our greatest pleasure is to be found in God.

SING

Scripture teaches that the central purpose of mankind is to glorify God and fully to enjoy Him forever. The marvelous truth is that God's glory and our joy are not competing interests. For the believer, they are one in the same! So we gladly abandon the temporary pleasures of sin so that we can take hold of the greater, everlasting treasure of Christ.

As we continue in worship, let's join in singing “Joyful”. Arranged in 2010 by Brenton Brown and Jason Ingram, this song testifies of the surpassing joy found in God alone. The third verse reads:

You are giving and forgiving
Ever blessing, ever blessed
Fountain of the joy of living
Ocean depths of happy rest

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 your Bible, a bottle of bubbles and some of your child's favorite candy.
- Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 6:13a. Explain to your child that this verse tells us that our greatest pleasure is to be found in God.
- Now have some fun together as a family. Go outside, blow bubbles, and share the candy.
- After you have finished these fun activities. Sit down and talk about your time together.
- Talk about how we can have fun together and have our favorite things but still feel empty and alone if we only care about ourselves and not God. We can be joyful in fun times, but our favorite things (bubbles, fun times, candy, food) are only temporary – they don't last. The only way anyone can experience true joy is through knowing God. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be happy and have fun, as long as a person doesn't seek after happiness instead of seeking the joy of knowing God.

- Our greatest joy and pleasure needs to come from God. True joy and pleasure are found in God and knowing what He has done for us.
- God loved us so much that he sent His one and only Son to earth to die on a cross so that we could have eternal life. God wants us to choose to follow Him and to love Him more than anything. He wants us to turn away from our sin and to trust Him. God wants us to share the good news of what Jesus has done for us with others too.
- Conclude your family time with prayer and thank God for everything He has given your family. Ask Him to help you all find true joy in Him.

Children

- Prepare: a plate or package of cookies, a toy, and a family photo, paper and markers.
- Grab a bible and sit down with your child at a table or on the floor with the above items.
- Set the cookies, toy, and picture in front of your child and ask them which one makes them most happy. Ask your child to list some other things that make them happy. Point out that these are good gifts that God allows us to have or experience.
- Explain that a lot of the things we enjoy that bring us happiness are not bad things. God gives us the ability to enjoy food, personal possessions, and spending time with friends and family.
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-13. Explain that there are a lot of things we are able to do, and can do, but it doesn't mean we should do them – even if they make us happy. Sometimes what makes us happy is not pleasing to God.
- Ask them what this verse says we were created for (we were created for God). Explain that since God created us, He can tell us how He wants us to live. And these verses say we should love God above all other things and people.
- Explain that sometimes even the good things we enjoy can lead us to sin. Ask for them to share an example, or you can share this one: you receive a new toy for a birthday present and you like it so much that you always want to play with it. When friends come over, you would rather play with the toy than talk to them. You ignore them because you love this new toy so much, and it is more important to you. Ask your child: is this toy bad? Is it wrong to receive gifts? Explain that there is nothing wrong with receiving gifts or having things, but they should never be the most important things to us.
- Explain that we can enjoy the good gifts God gives us, but more than that, we should enjoy the one who gives us these things—God. Remind them that verse 13 says we were created for God.
- Ask your child to share how we can find enjoyment in God. Tell them that one way is to read his Word and learn about God's character and the promises He gives us in the Bible.
- Ask them to share some ways they can find physical pleasure in God (e.g. playing outside, swimming in the lake, eating food God has provided, etc.) Give them a piece of paper and markers. Have them write at the top, "Enjoy God," and ask them to list some of these things. Encourage them to leave space on the paper, and then hang it on the fridge or somewhere visible and ask them to add to the list throughout the week.
- Pray with your child, thanking God for these good gifts he gives us, and asking for His protection from sin—especially the sin of enjoying God's gifts more than God.
- Take time to enjoy the cookies and play with your child.

Students

- Start your time together as a family by asking your students to list things they want right now. You could have fun with them and pretend that Christmas is tomorrow, so what would they want to find under the tree? You might even discover some helpful hints! After you spend some time really listening to their wants and desires, ask them if they have ever been disappointed with anything after they received it. Have they ever really desired something that, once they got it, left them dissatisfied? Now read 1 Corinthians 6:12-13 together.
- Now ask if they think having and pursuing your own desires is a good or bad thing. Is it wrong to want? Be sure to give them time to respond, and do not give them the "right" answer too quickly. Now read Psalm 37:4 together. Point out that God does not judge a person because they have wants or desires, but rather compels them to find their satisfaction (the fulfillment of their wants) in Him. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that The Lord is "for the body." In other words our lives were created intentionally with great desire to be satisfied; however, God is the only one who can satisfy. Spend some time talking through how someone can trust God to satisfy them. Share ways in which God has been your satisfaction when you have pursued Him over other things to make you happy. Ask your students how someone pursues God as their greatest desire. How does God get glory from our pursuing satisfaction in Him?