

Family Worship Guide – Week 21

READ

- Psalm 119 is the longest psalm as well as the longest chapter in the Bible. It is the prayer of one who delights in and lives by the Torah, the sacred law. Its 176 verses are divided into twenty-two stanzas of eight lines each and in Hebrew forms an acrostic, with each stanza starting with successive letters of the Hebrews alphabet. In almost every verse of the psalm is a synonym for the Torah, such as “word”, “promise”, “testimonies”, etc. As you read, be on the lookout for the psalmist’s response toward God and His Word: “delight”, “obey”, “meditate”, “rejoice”, etc.
- Read Psalm 119:9-16
The psalmist declares that a person “keeps his way pure” by obeying God’s Word (v. 9). The psalmist testifies that he has internalized and rejoices in God’s Word so that he might be morally pure (v. 10-14). He continually meditates on the Law (v. 15-16).
Questions:
The psalmist says that he seeks God with his “whole heart” (v. 9). Can you make that same statement? What is keeping you from following God with your whole heart? In what ways are you storing God’s Word in your heart? How have you benefited from memorizing God’s Word each week?
- Read Psalm 119:17-24
The psalmist asks God to open his eyes so that he could see the marvelous blessings of God in the Word (v. 17-18). He hungers for the Word (v. 19-20). Because God curses the wicked who disobey Him, he prays that the Lord will remove those who reproach him. In contrast with them, he meditates on and delights in God’s Law (v. 21-24).
Questions:
The psalmist says his soul is consumed with longing for God’s Word at all times (v. 20). What consumes your thoughts and desires? What often keeps you from longing for God’s Word as the psalmist does?
- Read Psalm 119:33-40
The psalmist declares his loyalty to the Word, which he observes with his whole heart (v. 33-35). He prays that the Lord would turn his eyes from looking at worthless things (v. 36-37). He desires God to confirm His promises to him (v. 38-40).
Questions:
What “worthless things” do you need to turn your eyes from (v. 37)?
The psalmist is not only concerned with reading God’s Word, but he is also set on obeying God’s Word (v. 33-34). What areas of Scripture have you been reading but not been putting into practice?
- Spend some time reflecting on how the written Word points us to the living Word, Jesus Christ. As we are to delight in and meditate upon the written Word, so should we delight in and meditate upon the living Word who is seen in the Bible.

The Bottom Line: God’s Word is to be our delight!

PRAY

- Read *Window on the World*, pg. 74-75 Haiti
- Use Prayer Card

SING

- Use lyric sheet and mp3 download of “My Beloved”
- This week our family worship song is “My Beloved” by Chris Tomlin. As we read through the Song of Solomon this week, we see the intimate love between a man and a woman in the context of a covenant marriage. The picture of this love between the bride and her beloved points us to an even deeper love, a love that God has for His people. Later in the New Testament, we also see this same language used to describe Christ and His bride, namely, the Church. Song of Solomon 2:16 says, “My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

This is true for us today as the Bride of Christ. He has laid down his very life for us and when we put our faith in Jesus, we forever belong to him.

MEMORIZE

- Song of Solomon 2:7 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

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 activities and questions can replace or serve as a supplement to the questions under the “Read” section on Page 1. Remember that 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 (Birth-Kindergarten)

- Before you begin, gather one of your children’s books. It needs to be a book with which they are unfamiliar. Sit down with your child and say, “Today we are going to read a great story, but I don’t want to read the entire book. I think it will take too much time. So, I’ll read just a little of it.” Read only the first sentence or paragraph.
- Say, “Isn’t this story great? What do you think happens in this story? Well, maybe I need to read something from the middle of the book to help us find out more. (Read a sentence from middle of book.) Now do you know what happens? Do you know how the story ends? (Read last the last sentence or paragraph of the book.) Now did you like the story? Well, I didn’t really read enough of the story, did I? If we really want to know what happens in this book, we need to read the whole thing. We need to read all the words on all the pages.”
- The Bible has many pages and words, and many people don’t want to read the whole Bible. They just look at parts of it and think they know the whole story. But when we read only little parts of my book, we couldn’t figure out what happened and it didn’t make complete sense, did it?
- It’s the same with the Bible. The Bible is God’s story and if we want to know the whole story, we need to read the whole Bible. Not all at once, but a little at a time.
- We can take great joy and learn a lot from reading ALL of God’s word. One of the greatest gifts God gave us is the Bible. We should be so happy to learn more about God from the Bible. God is so good and loves us so much! We need to thank Him for giving us His story in the Bible.

Children (Grades 1-5)

- You will need to draw two large hearts of equal size on a sheet of paper.
- Begin by asking your child about the things that he/she really likes and gives them joy. Explain that this is delighting in these things. After talking about them, write in the first heart all the things in which your children take delight. In the other heart write the word “God” in big letters taking up most of the space. Now look at both hearts. Go back and try to write “God” the same way on the first heart. You can’t, because it is too full of other stuff. You only have room to fit “God” in small spaces. When we fill our hearts with many things and not God, we don’t leave Him much room in our hearts and lives.
- Psalm 119:10 says, “I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.” That is what the second heart on our paper shows, a heart filled with “God.” Can we say that about ours?
- Does this mean we can’t like anything else? No! It means God must be first, and it must be in Him where we find the most joy. Look again at the hearts on your paper. Do you see anything in the hearts you like or enjoy more than God? Why do you think that is? God’s Word assures us that He is better than all of the things in this world. What are some things we can do to grow to love God more than anything else?

Students (Grades 6-12)

- Read Verses 9-16 again. Based on these verses, what are some specific methods for spiritual maturity?
- In verses 15 & 16 we see two key words, “meditate” & “delight.” What does it mean to meditate, to consider God’s Word? Pick one phrase from Psalm 119 and meditate on it. Then, discuss the word “delight.” List 5 things you have delighted in this past week. How might our delight in the Lord instead of the things of this world affect our life and witness to the world?
- Every time you read your Bible this week, try praying Psalm 119:18.

Prayer

Week 21

Praise

Praise is an act of worship through prayer in which we express our adoration of and love for God. It is rejoicing in who God is and the salvation He gives us through Christ. We recognize the many facets of His character and the work He has done in our lives. It is giving thanks for the blessings He has given us. When we praise God, we give glory, honor and thanks to Him.

Biblical Basis for Praise:

Deuteronomy 10:21; 1 Chronicles 16:8-13; Psalm 150; Romans 15:8-11; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9

Take some time for each of those gathered with you to lift up praises to the Lord.

Nations: Haiti

- Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Ask God to provide for Haiti in their time of need for His name's sake.
- Roughly half of the population of Haiti practices voodoo. Pray that God would open the eyes of these people who are in darkness and bring them into His Kingdom of light.
- Due to the recent earthquake, tens of thousands of Haitians were killed, hundreds of thousands injured and as many as one million left homeless. Pray that God would reveal Himself to these people, comforting them and drawing them to Himself.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ that they would be faithful in ministering to the country of Haiti.
- Pray for resources and training for the local believers so that they may be equipped to proclaim the Gospel and disciple those who come to faith in Christ.

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

My Beloved

By Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, J.D. Walt
and Louie Giglio

My Beloved mine, I His
My Beloved mine, I His
My Beloved mine, I His
My Beloved mine, I His

His precious was spilled
His precious was spilled
His precious was spilled
My Beloved mine, I His

He raised my life up from the dead
He raised my life up from the dead
He raised my life up from the dead
My Beloved mine, I His

When my eyes shall see His face
When my eyes shall see His face
When my eyes shall see His face
My Beloved mine, I His

Mighty God, Faithful One
My Beloved, my Beloved
You're the Lamb of God
You're the Holy One
My Beloved, my Beloved, my Beloved

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Scripture Memory

Week 21

Song of Solomon 2:7 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

