GRACE CHURCH Kids

Family Worship Guide

VOLUME ONE



A Note to Parents and Caregivers:

This family reading guide is for your family to worship Jesus Christ in your home as you share the truths of Scripture, engage in fruitful conversation, read, teach, sing, and pray. Consider this a helpful tool, not a rigid formula. Engage with your children on their level and adjust to your family's needs.

As conversations and questions come up, embrace the pauses and detours even when kids share thoughts that may seem slightly "off topic." **We understand that many of our Camp Grace kids are not believers yet. If that is the case for your children, this guide can help teach them about communion and to prepare them for observing (rather than partaking in) the elements during Sunday service.**

Feel free to adapt the daily prayers, for children who aren't yet believers, you might pray these together as a family while explaining what it would mean to make them your own.

Before you begin, read the paragraphs below to renew your own heart and mind around the elements of communion as you prepare to guide your children. May you rely on the Spirit of God as you endeavor to lead your children and prepare their hearts for our corporate worship service.

Communion: Remember, confess, repent

Communion is sacred. Communion is more than just remembering, it's a moment where God meets his people through this tangible expression of the gospel. The elements involved point us to Jesus

Christ, our one and only Savior, whose body was broken and whose blood was poured out on our behalf for the absolute forgiveness of sin. Through this finished work on the cross, a perfect sacrifice, we have redemption through Christ and are therefore united to God for all eternity.

Partaking in the Lord's Supper is for the believing Christian who has been regenerated by the work of the Holy Spirit, has died to the old self, and has risen with Christ to new life. Those apart from Christ who have not yet made a profession of genuine saving faith and who have not yet trusted in Christ alone for their salvation should observe, pray, and ask questions to parents, guardians, and those in spiritual authority over them.

Through taking the elements, we **remember** the sacrifice of Jesus. We **confess** our sins to God, acknowledging it was our sin that put Jesus on the cross and how, apart from his work of grace, we are without hope. And finally, we **repent**, turning away from our sin and turning toward Christ, trusting his righteousness rather than our own. Praise the Lord for this gift of communion! All glory to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, forever and ever, amen.

A note on baptism: Inquire with your campus staff about the next opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of baptism as a congregation. If your child is a professing follower of Jesus and is asking questions about taking steps of obedience in baptism, please reach out to your campus pastor, or someone else on your campus staff to engage the church with that potential next step. More info can be found here: *Grace.sc/next-steps/baptism.*

Family Reading Plan

Sunday – Saturday

Read • Discuss • Pray • Sing

Sunday | Day 1

Read – Luke 22:14-20

Discuss: Look at your body. Hold out your arms and hands. What do you see? Do you know what's underneath your skin? You have muscles, organs, bones and blood cells.

During this time in Luke 22, Jesus was celebrating Passover with his disciples. He held out bread and wine and said these two things actually represent himself. What is different between your body and the body and blood of Jesus? When Jesus says "this is my body, which is given for you" he explains a huge difference. Our hearts are stained with sin whereas Jesus' heart is not. Only Jesus is perfect and without sin. He is offering to us a great exchange – his body given over to death, in order to save us and give us life. No one else or nothing else can do this. Though we were created in God's image, we chose to disobey God. We fall short of God's perfect standard. We needed Jesus to stand in our place. This is what Jesus calls us to remember in this symbolic way as we follow him in the Lord's Supper. He gave himself up for us so that we can be dead to sin and alive to God!

Pray: *Lord, our bodies are broken and marked by sin. Thank you for your sinless body and blood. What an amazing gift. Help us to learn to trust you for our salvation.*

Sing: "Son of Suffering" - The Worship Initiative

Monday | Day 2

Read – Exodus 12:5-13

Discuss: Have you ever tried to spot the difference in a picture puzzle? Maybe a hidden hot dog in a picture of balloons? There's always one key detail that jumps out and makes that one picture stand out from the rest.

The Israelites in Egypt had to stand out, too. God was about to prove His power and mercy and provide protection for his people God was about to judge Egypt and rescue his people. In the final plague, God declared the firstborn son of every home would die. But he also said he would keep the Israelite families safe by marking a key difference. He told the Israelites to paint lambs blood on their doorposts. This lamb had to be pure, "without blemish."

Years and years later, we see how God was preparing us even then to understand that the true Lamb of God - the person of Jesus - would one day come and die in our place. His own blood would pay the price for us so that God's anger toward sin would pass over us. Praise God that he sent his only Son, so that in Jesus, we find true rescue from our slavery to sin.

Pray: *God, you are the one true God. You are the one who rescues. Thank you for Jesus, our forever perfect Lamb, whose blood covers us. Amen.*

Sing: "Lamb of God" - Vertical Worship

Tuesday | Day 3

Read – Galatians 2:15-20

Discuss: What's your favorite ice cream? Do you ever want to add more toppings onto your ice cream to make it better? How about chocolate sauce or a cherry on top? Sometimes, a simple vanilla is just right on its own, without having to add anything else.

The same is true with our salvation – nothing can be added to make it more sweet. When we are approved by God by faith alone, that's the only means of being made right. When Paul spoke to the Galatians, he was trying to settle a debate - not about ice cream flavors but about what was needed in order to be saved. No, they did not need to be circumcised or add any of their own efforts in order to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

God offers us salvation without any strings attached or added ingredients. The Bible says if we confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead we will be saved (Romans 10). God grants His people salvation when we acknowledge our sin and trust in Him. That's it. There's nothing else we can do to be "more approved" than the approval we already have through Jesus Christ. In this case, like a perfect scoop of vanilla, the simple gospel is the best choice to make and nothing else can be added.

Pray: *Lord, you accept me when I trust in your Son, Jesus. Thank you for this free gift by faith. Help me see that I belong to you simply because you call me to have faith in you, not by any work that I can add. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Sing: "O God of Our Salvation" - Grace Church Worship

Wednesday | Day 4

Read – John 12:24-26

Discuss: Does your family have a garden? What do you grow? Growing wheat takes a lot of sun and a little water. The seeds of grain have to be fully buried if you want to produce the fruit called wheat berries. That's the picture Jesus wants us to see. In God's kingdom, we view things differently. Like a seed, Jesus was buried in the ground. He needed to do this to show that his death actually leads to life. He rose again proving victory over sin and death. Like the seed, there must be a burial before there can be life.

Jesus often spoke in parables and used imagery like this. He told stories to help us think through an idea for those who were paying attention. In this message, he's helping us think of his life, death and resurrection.

When Jesus offers us himself, he is saying, come and choose to give up your former life, bury it with me, so that when I rise from the dead your new life can begin, too! That's the kind of harvest we need – a life in Jesus where our old life is gone and the new life has begun!
(2 Corinthians 5)

Pray: *Jesus, thank you for your life, death and resurrection. Help me to see that your way is the right way. Like a buried seed, you died but rose again. You died so death could be no more. Show us the way to eternal life in you. Amen.*

Sing: "Build My Life" - Pat Barrett

Thursday | Day 5

Read – Isaiah 53:6

Discuss: When you were little, do you remember mom or dad trying to help you walk? You just couldn't stay in a straight line. Sheep do this, too. They wander. They enjoy the protection of their flock, but too often they go their own way without thinking twice. The trouble with this is when they go their own way, they are in danger and no longer under the care of their shepherd. They are outside of the sheepfold.

We do this with God, too. We have gone astray by choosing our own way instead of God's way. We chose to be without a shepherd. Yet, Isaiah the prophet shows us how God has always made a way for his people to stay close to him. Finally, when Jesus came to earth, this showed Isaiah's words were true, and more importantly, that God keeps his promises. We have gone astray, but Jesus our Savior came to earth to bring us back. Instead of us being punished for wandering away, Jesus willingly took our punishment by dying a criminal's death on a cross. A Good Shepherd is also our Passover Lamb.

He lived a perfect life, never wandering away, so that he could be our Good Shepherd. Now instead of wandering like sheep, we can hear the Shepherd's voice when he calls us by name.

Pray: *God, you sent Jesus to bring us into the sheepfold under your love and care. You did not have to do this, but you willingly gave up your life. Our sins were placed on you. Help us live like we are your sheep and stay close by your side. Lead us, Lord. Amen.*

Sing: "Promises" - Maverick City

Friday | Day 6

Read – Colossians 2:6-14

Discuss: Have you ever been on a team? How about a soccer or baseball team? You're there for the highs and you're there for the lows. Win or lose, you're a part of the team. Even being a member of a family is like being on a team.

With Jesus, we are always with him, or rather "in" him, when we first put our trust in Him and receive His spirit. Because we are in Jesus, everything he has done becomes ours. We are forgiven, counted clean, freed from the record of sin.

In these verses Paul explains about seven times how we are "with Him" and "in Him." If Jesus is our Savior, we are filled with Him! This means our sins have been buried with him and our new life has risen with him. We still do sin but that no longer defines us. It's not who we are anymore. We are counted blameless because our record of sin has been cancelled in Christ.

When we gather as a church, we experience this and remember. In taking communion, we think about this new amazing reality. Instead of being left to ourselves, we embrace the forgiveness that comes from Jesus and join Him in his holiness.

His Spirit helps us live for him because we don't just belong to ourselves anymore. Isn't it amazing to be on God's team? He calls us to receive all that He is as a gift. He has won the victory over death, so we celebrate being on his team as we look to Jesus as our leader.

Pray: *Jesus, I want to be filled with more of you. Help me to be rooted deep in you so that your life becomes my life. Amen.*

Sing: "Follow and Believe" - Grace Church Worship

Saturday | Day 7

Read – Matthew 4:1-4

Discuss: How often have you asked your parents for a snack and they have told you to wait for dinner? You might be sad, but do you know why your parents make you wait? Your dinner is the food that you truly need. The snack tastes good in the moment but doesn't fill you up or help you to grow. It's hard to look past the moment and see what we truly need!

Jesus handled this similar temptation perfectly when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. He understood that God's Word is what would keep him alive and his soul healthy rather than giving in to Satan's lies. The enemy has always tried to twist God's words and tempt us to walk away from God toward lesser things. John 6 describes Jesus as the "living bread that came down from heaven." Jesus is the true food that we need. Jesus resisted every temptation (he never sinned once) so that his perfect life could be credited to us.

As a church, we regularly remember this to help us along our journey. In Him, we have complete joy and peace. We have fallen short, he has not. We have sinned, he has not. When we see God's Word as the food we need, we see Jesus. We trust Him. We embrace his forgiveness. And He sets us on a new path toward righteousness.

Pray: *Lord, you are all that we need. Nothing else. Guard our hearts from sinning against you any time we go our own way. Be the spiritual food that we need for forgiveness, freedom, life, and peace.*

Sing: "Lord, I Need You" - The Worship Initiative

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