



# RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

February 4, 2018

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## What We're Learning This Week

### **“THE MESSAGE: CHRIST ALONE”**

*ACTS 15:1-35*

The church leaders met in Jerusalem to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? The early church agreed that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved.

## Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

*Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!*

### **BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY**

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, when Paul and Barnabas shared the Gospel with Gentiles. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Acts 15:1-35; pray and ask God to reveal himself to you and for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week

### **AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY**

#### **Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation**

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
  1. Paul and Barnabas debated with other church leaders in Jerusalem: can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? When Paul addressed the council, he insisted that God saves Gentiles the same way He saves Jews: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.
    - Talk together as a family. Emphasize to your kids that, while the Bible does give us plenty of instruction for how to live, sinners are made right with God only by the grace of Jesus. Salvation is a gift. To receive this gift, Jesus is all we need.

- Talk to your family about the (very deep) topic of grace. How do we know that grace is fully what we need, and that we can't add to it? What are some ways that we are tempted to add to the Gospel of grace? Why is this hard for us to believe, remember, and/or live by each day?
  - Dive in to the freedom of grace that Christ has earned for us. Remind and encourage one another to live a life of grace, both individually but also towards others. How does grace impact the way we view and interact with other people? Specifically, how does it shape the way we view others who do not believe in Jesus?
2. The leaders chose Judas and Silas to go to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas to deliver the letter. The believers in Antioch were encouraged by the letter.
- Talk together as a family about delivering and receiving good news. What does it feel like to be encouraged, and what does it feel like to be an encourager? How has God equipped us to be deliverers of good news?
  - Practice together delivering and receiving the good news of the Gospel! Have the children share the Gospel with you, and walk through it together as a family. A sweet time to not just recount the grace of God, but to grow together as a family in sharing the kingdom story of God creating, redeeming, and restoring his people through his son Jesus!

### **Discipleship through prayer**

- Take time to pray together as a family.
  - Pray for everyone in your family who does not know Jesus, for their salvation through the gospel of grace! Pray for a deeper wisdom of grace, and pray for opportunities to show and receive grace to others. Pray for relationships with other people to share God's good news with and for boldness/courage to share it!
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit

### **Discipleship through modeling/action**

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed
  - Be first to model grace in your home, especially in difficult or stressful situations/days. Share the story of the Gospel with one another daily, and read through Scripture as a family detailing the good news of Jesus. Encourage and love one another in the grace of God!

- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

## Our Memory Verse for This Unit

### **OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED “THE GOD WHO SENDS”) IS ACTS 1:8**

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
  - “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”
- *For our younger kids, we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
  - “You will be my witnesses...to the end of the earth”

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God’s Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

## What’s Coming Up?

- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word “Kids” to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

## We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email [kids@realityla.com](mailto:kids@realityla.com) at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well!