



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

March 18, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

“THE CHURCH SHOWED FAVORITISM” JAMES 2:1-13

When believers in the early church treated some people as better than others, James told them they were wrong. He reminded them that Jesus commanded believers to love one another. Because He has shown great mercy to us, we can show mercy to others.

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 reminded believers in Corinth that because of what Jesus has done, we can humbly come together as one body. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through James 2:1-13, 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. James asks believers a very important question. How can we claim faith in Christ Jesus and show favoritism? In doing so he is directly contrasting the two: faith in Christ and favoritism. How does our faith in Christ influence the way we interact with people? How does it prevent us from showing partiality or favoritism?

- Encourage your kids to think about how we are saved in Christ. Did we receive salvation based on some intrinsic quality? Based on our character? Based on our financial status or skin color? No!
 - Emphasize to your kids that we have been saved by faith in Christ alone. Our standing before God is not based on us but on Jesus' work on the cross, because of this we do not regard ourselves as better than others or some more valuable than others. Because of this, we do not show favoritism.
2. James said that God does not show favoritism. He does not treat rich people better than poor people. Engage your family in a conversation about poverty. What does the scriptures say about the poor (see James 2:5 and Matt 5:3)? How does this shape how we interact with the poor? How does this free us from showing favoritism? Think about ways your family can serve the poor in your community. Have your kids think of ways they can engage in this as well.
 3. The scriptures tell us to love our neighbors as ourselves (see Leviticus 19:18, 34, Matthew 22:39 and James 2:8.) What does this communicate about the heart of God for the community of believers and the life of believers? How do we see Jesus model this in the scriptures? How does this guide us to engage with one another and not show favoritism?
 - Discuss ways in which your family can practice it this week. Encourage your kids to think about other kids in school or relationships outside of your family, and how this scripture can be applied to those situations.

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Thank God for salvation through Christ. Ask the Lord to reveal ways in which you have shown favoritism in the past or are showing favoritism right now. Ask the Lord for mercy. Pray that the Lord empowers you to love people well just as Jesus has loved us. Ask the Lord to reveal ways in which your family can engage with the poor in your community.
 - 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
 - Intentionally seek to sacrificially love your family and kids this week. Proclaim the Gospel to your kids this week by showing them what it looks like to treat everyone with dignity and respect knowing that everyone is made in the image of God. Seek to intentionally engage with the poor.
- 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 LEADS”) IS GALATIANS 2:20

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
 - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me”
- *For our younger kids, we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
 - “I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me”

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?

- Our schedule has changed! Check out the changes [here](#) and ask RLA Kids leaders about it on Sunday.
- 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 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.