



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

April 29, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

“A TRANSFORMED MIND”

ROMANS 12:1-18, PHILIPPIANS 1:3-7, 1 CORINTHIANS 1:9

God wants us to show friendship and love to one another. As believers, we all belong to Jesus. His death and resurrection bring us together. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us.

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 that we have been freed from sin and adopted into God's family as children of God and heirs. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Romans 12:1-18, Philippians 1:3-7 and 1 Corinthians 1:9, 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 begins his letter in Romans 12:1 by saying “therefore”, this usually means that the basis of what he is about to say lies in what he has already said. Refer your family to Romans 8: 1-18, where Paul explains the Gospel and how the work of Christ transforms our identity, into children of God, heirs in the kingdom of God and fills us with the Holy Spirit to follow

Christ. Encourage your family to keep this in mind as you begin your discussion of today's scriptures.

2. Paul urges us to live our lives as living sacrifices in worship to God. What does this mean? How do we do this? Paul also encourages us to live transformed lives through renewed minds. What does this mean? How does this happen? What does it look like? How do these things point us to our need for God?
 - Remind your kids that Gospel transformation involves a deep change of our hearts and minds. Help them understand the Gospel and what it means to rest in it and in who they have been made in Christ. All that Paul is calling us to do as believers is rooted in the fact that we have the Holy Spirit and we abide in Christ.
3. Paul says that believers are to work together as one body, functioning as different parts of the body. What does this mean? How does it influence the way believers are to function in Christ, in church and in community? How does your family function in the church? Your kids? Encourage your kids to engage in this conversation. Specifically encourage your kids that even in their young age, they are an important, irreplaceable part of the body of Christ.
4. Spend time going through the different spiritual gifts Paul lists, explain each gift to your kids and encourage their questions. Affirm gifts that they may have and talk about ways these gifts could be stewarded. How do we see spiritual gifts used in the scriptures?
5. Paul calls believers to do some really difficult things in Romans 12, such as being patient during difficult times, being consistent in prayer, not being prideful and living in peace with all. How are we empowered to do these things?
 - Encourage your kids to rest in Christ and his work on the cross. As Paul also writes in Philippians 1:3-7, it is God who begins the work, it is Him who continues the work and it is Him who completes the work of making believers more like Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Pray together as a family. Thank God for what he has done through Christ. Thank Him for giving himself, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Pray that the Lord continues to teach your kids and family to abide in Christ. Pray that the Gospel of Jesus will continue to shape your hearts and minds as a family to be more like Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to empower your family to live in worship to God.
- 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
 - This week intentionally seek to model the Gospel transformation in your lives. Depend fully on the work of God, in Jesus through the Holy Spirit for this. Seek to lead your family this week in a consistent time of prayer.
- 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 CHANGES US”) IS 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
 - “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”.
- *For our younger kids, we are doing the full verse as well!*
 - “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”.

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?

- Check out the changes to our schedule [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.