



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

April 15, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

“PAUL’S LETTERS TO CHURCH LEADERS”

1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16; 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8; TITUS 2:11-14

Paul wrote to give Timothy and Titus advice and to help all church leaders know how to lead God’s people. Church leaders help believers know what is true, and they serve the church by following the example of Jesus, who served us by dying on the cross for our sins.

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 **John** reminded believers that it is important to show love. He reminded them that **Jesus** showed God’s love for us by dying on the cross to rescue us from our sin.
- Read through 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Titus 2:11-14, 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 admonishes some of the elders of the early church, Timothy and Titus, to remain rooted in scripture and its teaching and to teach it constantly. Engage in a conversation with your kids as to why the scriptures are important? What do we believe about the scriptures that distinguishes it from all other books? How is the scripture useful in a

believers everyday life? Explain the Bible's dual authorship to your kids and engage them in this conversation.

- Paul encourages Timothy to not shy away from preaching the Gospel because others look down on his young age. Timothy could show people how to live, how to love, and how to trust God. Ask your kids how they can learn, teach and live out the gospel in their young age. Allow them to think and share their thoughts.
2. Paul encourages Timothy to be ready at all times to preach the word. What does this mean? What are some things that prevent us from preaching the word and living out its teaching? How are we empowered by the Holy Spirit and through the scriptures to overcome those barriers that hinder us from preaching the word?
 3. The church is made up of believers, but God calls some to be leaders, such as pastors or deacons. How is church leadership modelled in the scriptures? How are we to engage with church leadership?
 - Look to Jesus for this, the head of the church and ultimate example of servant leadership. Help your kids understand that the leaders of the church do not lead on their own, they submit to the authority of Jesus and lead the church by the power of the Holy Spirit
 4. When Paul wrote to Titus, he explained why believers live in a way that pleases God. Through Jesus' death on the cross, believers received forgiveness and have received grace from God, both gifts we did not deserve. Are we then to keep on sinning because we have received grace from God? Or are we to just try and be good people? Why do believers do what is right? Engage your family in a conversation about this.
 - Emphasise to your kids that because we have received forgiveness and grace from God, gifts we do not deserve, we are then motivated to live our lives for God. Grace is not a permission to sin and we are not trying to do good things to gain God's love, mercy and grace. We have been given these things, freely, and so we live for God.

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Thank God for your family. Pray that the Lord will continue to give you wisdom, strength and gentleness as you shepherd the hearts of your your children towards Him. Pray for the leaders of the church. Pray that God will give them wisdom in leading the church and that the Holy Spirit will guide them in this. Pray that they will submit to the authority of Jesus as the head of the church and look to Him as their example of leadership.

- 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 consider ways your family can serve the leaders of our church. Continue to pray for them throughout the week in ways you feel led and invite your kids in that as well. Model servant leadership in your home this week.
- 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?

- We will be updating our schedule a little bit! 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.