



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

May 6, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" GALATIANS 5:15-26

When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins to change us. Paul told the believers in the Galatian church how to recognize that God is working in someone's life. People who are saved by Jesus become more like Him, and the Holy Spirit gives them power to say no to sin and to live in a way that pleases God.

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 we were reminded that as believers, the Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Galatians 5: 15-26, 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. In our passage today, Paul mentions "the flesh" and "the Spirit" in war against each other. What does Paul mean by "the flesh" and what is he meaning by "the Spirit"? Why are they at war with each other? What are the distinct works of the Spirit highlighted in our passage today?

- Remind your kids of the scriptures you've studied together in the last few weeks and talk together about how the scriptures as a whole help us understand the meaning of this passage today.
2. Paul mentions several times in our passage to walk by the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. What does this mean? How do we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit and why is this important as believers? What changes in our lives if we are not led by the Spirit?
 3. Paul gives us examples of behavior we act out, when we let our flesh guide us instead of being guided by the Holy Spirit. He mentions that people who make a habit of doing these things will not be a part of God's Kingdom to come. Talk together about these things. Have a conversation with your kids about how our actions and behavior reflect the state of our hearts. Why is it that people who make a habit of doing these things will not be in God's future Kingdom?
 - Emphasize to your kids that this is not about trying to stop doing these things or all the bad things. Explain that our actions are a reflection of our hearts and that the transformation of our hearts and minds by the Gospel is reflected in the way we engage with God, one another and ourselves.
 4. Paul also says that we have died to the passions and desires of our flesh. What does this mean? Are we dying to all passions and desires? How did Jesus model this? How does this inform how we live as believers.
 5. Paul also gives us examples of what our lives look like when we let the Holy Spirit guide us. Engage in a conversation about the different things listed.
 - As you share the fruit of the Spirit with your kids this week, carefully help them see that the fruit is produced by the Holy Spirit working in them. Help them understand that our response is not to think of ways we can be more loving, joyful or peaceful, but rather for us to go to the Lord in prayer with open hearts asking the Holy Spirit to do his work in our hearts and lives.

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Thank God for salvation through Jesus and the continued work of the Holy Spirit to make us more like Him everyday. Pray that the Lord opens the hearts of your kids to the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray that your family will produce fruit. Ask the Lord to help you and your family in the daily dying to flesh.
- 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
 - Our passage this week talks about walking by the Spirit and being led by the Spirit. As believers, we are the ones doing the walking and the Spirit is leading. Think of ways this can be modeled to your kids and in your family this week as situations present themselves.
- 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 an abbreviated version of the verse:*
 - “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.