



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

July 15, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

“PAUL GAVE HOPE” 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-5:11

The prophets in the Old Testament told about the Day of the Lord, a day when God would come to judge the world and save His people. Paul said that in the future, on the Day of the Lord, Jesus will return for His people and judge the wicked. Believers live with hope, knowing that Jesus will come again.

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 being dedicated to Jesus, used every opportunity to tell people about the Gospel and build up the church. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 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 worried about the people in Thessalonica. They had not been believers for very long. So Paul sent his friend Timothy to see how they were doing. Timothy brought back good news. Even though the Thessalonians faced suffering for their faith, they did not give up. Paul wrote a letter to encourage the believers. He told them that Jesus will return someday.

On that day, Paul said, believers will be freed from their sufferings! This message gave them great hope.

- Talk together as a family. In what ways does the church today face similar challenges to the church in Thessalonica? In what ways are we different? Talk about how there are still churches who are experiencing intense suffering in the world today. How can we support, encourage, and love them?
 - What can we learn from how they responded to facing suffering for their faith? Look at Scriptures like James 1 and Romans 5...what do we learn about God in times of suffering? How can we talk to/engage with Him? Why do we have hope even in times of trial and difficulty?
2. Perhaps Paul's greatest message was about the return of Jesus. On that day, Paul said, believers will be freed from their sufferings. On the Day of the Lord, Jesus will return for His people and judge the wicked. That's a promise we can still claim today.
- Talk together as a family. What does it mean to have hope? Why can't we just have hope in our circumstances or our desires? What are some of God's promises that we can call on today?
 - What do we know about the Day of the Lord? Talk as a family about the tension of hope and waiting expectantly.
 - How do we know Jesus is coming back again? How does that inform what our life looks like today? What does it say about who God is?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Pray together for hope and for joy. Pray for the church around the world, especially for those who are suffering.
- 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
 - How has knowing about Jesus returning impacted your family's daily life? Continue to talk about the hope we have in Jesus and how to encourage those suffering in the church.

- 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 GIVES HOPE”) IS 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
 - “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”
- For our younger kids, we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:
 - “All Scripture is breathed out by God”

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 memorisation 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?

- RLA kids graduation is July 8! All the information can be found on the RLA Kids group on RLA Connect.
- 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.