



# RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

July 8, 2018

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## What We're Learning This Week

### **“PAUL’S LETTER TO PHILEMON” PHILEMON 8-22**

Paul offered to pay Onesimus’s debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and man. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He paid our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed by 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 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 Philemon 8-22, 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 urged Philemon to treat Onesimus as if he were Paul himself—with love and kindness. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and humanity
    - Talk together as a family, and go through different parts of Scripture together. Where do you see God make peace between man and Himself? What does this say about who God is and who we are?

- What does it look like to receive forgiveness and kindness? What does it look like to extend it to others? And how can we extend forgiveness to others even when we are still hurt (and how does the Gospel influence this)?
2. Paul's letter serves as a reminder to us that everyone is equal before Jesus. People from completely different backgrounds—like Paul, a former Jewish leader; Onesimus, a runaway slave; and Philemon, a Gentile slave-owner—are brought together by the gospel under the lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Talk together as a family. How does this impact how we view people who are unlike us? How can we learn to celebrate diversity and distinction in our city?

### **Discipleship through prayer**

- Take time to pray together as a family.
  - Thank God for forgiveness, and pray for an opportunity to grow in forgiveness of others. Pray for an understanding of God's view of diversity/distinction and for your hearts to become more like His in this area.
- 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
  - Read the entire book of Philemon together and discuss it as a family. Continue conversations on what it means to both ask for forgiveness and to give forgiveness, and take opportunities to practice it together.
- 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](mailto: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.