



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

August 12, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

“GOD’S WARNING TO SEVEN CHURCHES” REVELATION 2-3

Jesus loves the church. His message to seven local churches called them to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. We can learn from those churches. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God’s plan.

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 Jesus showed Himself to John and explained that He is the First and the Last, the Living One. While Jesus was on earth, He defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Revelation 2-3, 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. Before jumping into the specifics of this week’s lesson, take time to continue the conversations started last week to talk together about the book of Revelation
 - We can all feel skeptical about someone “knowing the future”...how do we know this account is true? What ways does God meet us in our uncertainty and doubt?

- How can we know, with certainty, what our future holds? What hope do we have in knowing this future hope of Christ? What does it say about who God is?
2. Jesus had seven distinct messages for the seven churches He was speaking to, but one central message ties through them all: turn away from sin and remain faithful to Him.
- Talk together about the warnings God gave His church. Why do you think God gave them warnings? Was it mean of God to do this, or was it kind? Why? How does Jesus speaking truth in love to these churches show His love for the church?
 - Talk together as a family about each of the seven churches and their warnings. What was God trying to communicate to that church? What does it communicate to the church as a whole (all believers of Jesus) about who God is and who we are called to be? Are there ways that these messages are still applicable to us as the church today?
 - In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” This is said after His warnings. What does this tell us about the character of God? Talk about the grace and kindness of our Savior together as a family!

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Pray for hearts to receive the warnings of God in love. Pray for closeness and nearness to God, and thank Him for His consistent, steady, always-ready posture as our loving Father.
- 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
 - Talk about ways God has redirected or kindly warned you this week. Ask your family what they have been learning, and how it has changed their daily lives.
- 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 REVELATION 21:5

- *For our older kids and our younger kids, we are doing the full verse:*
 - “He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

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?

- Our next Family Connect is coming up on August 25. Check out the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#) for more info
- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page 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.