

4/5/2020

Family Worship

Note to Parents:

While we don't definitively know when Gatherings will return to normal, we want the kids to continue in learning about God and His word in all circumstances! We encourage all parents to listen to the sermon today before leading your children in family worship time.

Family Praise:

- Check out these videos to help your family worship together:
 - [For older kids](#)
 - [For younger kids](#)

Bible Reading for the Day: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

- Have your child grab a Bible, have a seat, and look up the passage that is going to be read for the day
- Focus on helping your child look up Scripture and help them remember the order of the books of the Bible. If they are at reading age, have them read the passage.
- If you don't have a Bible at home, you can go to this link to the text on [Bible Gateway](#)

Questions about 2 Corinthians 1:3-11:

For Elementary-age kids:

- What are some things or people that bring you comfort?
- What does the word affliction mean? (Check out the definition [here](#))
- What are some afflictions that you have faced? How does this passage say we should respond to our afflictions? How can we comfort others during their afflictions?
- During the time 2 Corinthians was written, Christians were treated poorly because of their faith. A lot of people did not want Christians to be teaching about Jesus. Some people were even killing Christians! How hard do you think it would have been to remain faithful in those days?

For Pre-K kids:

- What does the word affliction mean? (Check out the definition [here](#))
- Can you think of times you've been worried, sad, or hurt?
- What does the Bible say God does in our affliction? What does comfort mean?
- When we are comforted by God, we are able to pass that comfort on to others. Who is someone you know that you could help comfort? How could you do that?
- The greatest comfort (or relief from pain and worry) comes from knowing that if we trust in Jesus, we will one day be with him in heaven where there is no affliction. What do you think that will be like? How does that make you feel?

Activity: Comfort Squares

Do: Have the kids find a stuffed animal or blanket that brings them comfort.

Say: Sometimes when scary things happen, or when we're alone, or maybe if we're having a hard time falling asleep at night, having something special like our favorite stuffed animal, or a special blanket can make us feel safe. They give us comfort.

Say: Comfort is when you feel safe and loved. Comfort is how you might feel when someone you really care about wraps you in a really big hug. (Feel free to do a family hug!)

Ask: Did you know that God comforts us? How do you think he does that? (Reread 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 if they need help answering the question) The all-encompassing comfort we find in Jesus can be remembered in times of deep grief, in overwhelming uncertainty, in fear and in loneliness.

Do: Together with your children, make some comfort squares. You can use any materials you want, but soft fabrics (like fleece, felt, even an old cotton t-shirt) work really well! You're going to make a few squares so that each child may have one and have some to share with someone else.

Supplies: You will need soft fabric, glue (fabric glue, hot glue, or craft glue), scissors and possibly permanent markers. If you do not have glue, just using markers can work.

Do: Cut out squares that are all the same size. Glue (or draw) a cross in the center of the top square. Then, if you have glue, you can glue two squares together. (see example below)

Say: The Bible tells us that if we belong to Jesus, even though we sin – we do things that God doesn't want us to do – Jesus loves us, and Jesus saves us from our sins. If we are going

through something really hard in our lives, or if we feel scared, or lonely, or worried about something, Jesus can comfort us. Isn't that amazing? The love and comfort of Jesus is so important that we want you to be able to remember it. These comfort squares can be a reminder of how much Jesus loves you!

Say: One of the best things about Jesus' comfort is we can share it with others. Take your extra comfort squares and share with a friend or someone in your family. Let them know that they can always find comfort in Jesus. (You could even Mail these as an encouragement)

Pray: Invite the kids to pray a simple prayer with you. Perhaps something like: "Dear God, thank you so much for loving us. Help us always to remember that whenever we are afraid, or alone, or scared, or sad, that Jesus comforts us. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Big Picture for 2 Corinthians 1:3-11:

2 Corinthians is written by an apostle of Jesus named Paul. Before Paul became a Christian, he actually used to persecute Christians (for definition of persecute click [here](#)) and even had some of them killed! So when Paul became a Christian, he knew the cost of following Jesus was high. But he also knew that his hope and comfort were not found in the things of this life, but in Jesus! Jesus took on affliction and even died on the cross so that those who follow Him can have an eternal life where God will comfort all believers and there will be no more affliction! (see [Revelation 21:1-4](#)) In this passage, Paul is encouraging other believers because he knows that even though Christians will face affliction in this life, the cost of following Christ is worth it! Practice asking your child today's Big Picture Question and have them respond with the following answer:

Parent: Why can believers have hope when they are afflicted?

Child: Because Jesus will one day save believers from all affliction!

Memory Verse:

- Review the following verse with your kids based on the appropriate age group.
- When Sunday Gatherings resume, they will be able to recite the verse to their leaders and get a prize!

Elementary: 1 Peter 3:18:

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit"

Pre-K: 1 Peter 3:18 (Paraphrased)

"Christ also suffered once for sins. The one who did what is right suffered for those who don't do right."