



Family Worship Guide – 1st Peter 1:1-2 & 4:7-11

MEMORIZE

1st Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.

READ

Read 1st Peter 1:1-2 & 4:7-11

Peter addresses his letter to God's elect, strangers in the world. The Christian life was so counter cultural, so different that they were known as strangers and aliens. Peter realizes this but instead of encouraging the followers of Christ of his day to become less strange by the world's standard, he does the exact opposite: He encourages them to be more alien.

Chapter 4 verses 7 to 11 is one example of Peter encouraging Christians of his day to be more alien. If we break these verses down simply, we see that we are told to love each other deeply, be hospitable, use our gifts to serve each other and all for God's glory. Sounds a lot like what we call "small groups" today. And the family gives us our smallest basic small group.

If we want to be seen as strangers and aliens, it starts with our families. Deep love for one another, being hospitable to one another, serving each other; what a beautiful picture of family. Fathers and mothers, if we want our children to know Christian fellowship and desire to know intimately our Lord and Savior, it begins at home.

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. Love deeply because love covers a multitude of sin. Said simpler "Love forgives...and forgives...and forgives." How do we show love and forgiveness to each other as a family?
2. Offer hospitality without grumbling. What does it mean to be hospitable? How do we do this already? How can we do it more? Is it possible to do this without grumbling?
3. Take time and identify each family member's gifts. Use this as a time to lift each other up and encourage each other. Share how you as a family can use these gifts for God's glory.
4. As aliens, we are called to share this love and service to more than just our families. How can your families serve your neighbors and friends with your love and gifts?

Bottom Line: We are aliens and we should not shy away from that. Instead we should be actively creating environments of love and grace that are foreign to our world but attractive to our hearts, so that God would be glorified through Jesus Christ.

SING

"And They'll Know we are Christians by our Love" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XhUsJD0w1M>)

As you watch the video and sing this song, think about how this applies to your families. As Christian families, we are to be defined by love as well. Make this an anthem of your family.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (up to 5)

- Humility, like many other character traits, is taught more by our actions than our words. Reflect on your own character. How do you show your family humility? Are you quick to demand service or be a servant? As parents, commit yourselves to humility. Come before God and confess your sinfulness and need for Him; then live for Him as a servant. Intentionally plan acts of humility to demonstrate daily this week. (Fulfill a chore normally done by your child, serve your spouse, work as a family to help out a neighbor)
- Read 1 Peter 5:5-7. Give examples of how to act humbly with our family, friends, etc.

Children (K-5th)

- Open your Bible and read 1 Peter 5:5-7. The verses say to "Humble Yourself." Review the definition you made together of humility in the family discussion.
- If you have internet access; go to www.jellytelly.com/video/humility to watch a short clip on humility from Focus on the Family. If not, come up with situations that demonstrate selfishness or humility and help your kids pick out the humble actions.
- Be "secret humble servants." Help your kids brainstorm ways that they can serve others without them knowing. Talk about the temptation to be praised for the good deeds we do. Doing things humbly means not expecting recognition. Have each child think of ways that they can serve another in secret this week. (Picking up a siblings toys for them, picking up trash on a walk, etc.)

Students (6th-12th)

- Have your kids open their Bibles with you to Luke 18:9-14.
- Review the definition of "humility" you created together. Before you read the passage, ask them to come up with a list of traits of a proud person vs. a humble.
- Read the parable; see if there is more to add to the list.
- Referring back to the parable, how did the humble man act? What was the attitude of the tax collector and the attitude of the Pharisee? Humility begins with the recognition of our sinfulness and need to fully depend on God.
- Now look into your lives. What are situations where you are tempted to be prideful instead of humble? How can we turn to God in these situations, humbling ourselves and depending fully on Him?

PRAY

Pray that Jesus would so capture the hearts of your family that love would permeate everything you do. If we want to be a people known for their love, it starts with our families.