

SUNDAY MESSAGES
SMALL GROUPS | FAMILY







SURRENDER **LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

NOVEMBER 5

MESSAGE NOTES

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Whenever you establish a trusting relationship, _____ are required.

Trust in God implies that God is _____.

Our human perspective on life is always _____, but God's perspective on matters is always _____.

When in doubt, always surrender to the _____.

Any area of life that is not surrendered God's leadership and wisdom will eventually be the source of great _____, _____, and _____.

"He will make your paths straight" does not mean he will make you _____, _____, and _____. It means he will provide _____, _____, and _____.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

What is God calling you to surrender to him today?

Prayer

God, today I surrender my entire life to you and your purposes because you are trustworthy and know what is best for my future.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

The book of Proverbs speaks of the way of wisdom and the way of foolishness. The way of wisdom will lead to life and the way of foolishness will lead to devastation and eventually death.

Proverbs 3:5-6 invites us to surrender to God wholeheartedly.

Background

The following is from the NIV Application Commentary on Trust.

"In the teaching of Proverbs, trust is the antidote to worry, not because it means we will have all we desire but because trust will keep us from taking matters into our own hands—that is, to turn from God's way to life and its blessings in order to grab the fruit for ourselves that we may well have been given in time. The problem is the human inclination to put well-being and possessions above everything else, even neighbor and God. This being the danger, we can see why the teacher is at such pains to tell us that wisdom is worth more than silver, gold, jewels, or anything else we might imagine.

Proverbs 3 reminds us that by putting obedience over the concern for the goods of this world, we do find that we have been provided for. Furthermore, trust in God implies that he knows what is good for us better than we do ourselves. This is not to say that trusting God means we no longer are responsible for figuring out the best course of action, but that we put God's desires at the center of our decision-making."

Questions

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

Note: To trust means "to lean our whole weight upon." We are invited to place our whole weight upon God.

1. Discuss a time when you trusted in something or someone and that trust was broken.
2. What does trust look like in a relationship? How do you know when you fully trust someone?
3. How would you define trusting in God?
4. How does surrendering to God dispel fear?
5. What are areas in your life that you find it easy to trust in God?
6. Read Matthew 4:12-13. Jesus went the opposite direction when he heard that John the Baptist was arrested. This led to John's doubt of Jesus' identity. How is your faith impacted when Jesus does not meet your expectations?
7. When was a time when you relied on your own understanding and regretted it?

8. Read Isaiah 40:9-31. What strikes you about the picture of God here? What does it say about God's strength, might and power? How is God superior to "your own understanding?"
9. What would it look for you to trust God wholeheartedly with your finances?
10. What would it look like for you to trust God wholeheartedly with your relationship and/or marriage?
11. What would it look like for you to trust God wholeheartedly with your faith?
12. Read Matthew 26:36-43. Three times Jesus asked the cup to be passed. Discuss a time when you struggled in your prayers. How does surrendering to God's will give you strength to carry on?

Proverbs 3:6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

13. What are some ways that you can "acknowledge" God?
14. What does this proverb say will be the result of trusting God wholeheartedly?
15. How have you experienced God's leading in your life? What does it look like?

Reflection

There's an old hymn entitled, "*I Surrender All*" The first verse begins:

*All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.*

We know from Scripture that the more we surrender to God, the more of his presence and love we will experience. But God's call to surrender is often a big step of courage. God led Abraham out of his country of Ur of the Chaldeans into Canaan. God led the Israelites out of Egypt. God led Nehemiah in the restoration of the walls of Jerusalem. God led the disciples to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. God is calling you to step out in faith to trust him as well. We are called to place the whole weight of our troubles, worries, cares and desires upon him. We can rest assured that as we do surrender wholeheartedly - God will lead us.

Prayer

Spend time giving thanks to God for those times in life when you have known his leading. Rededicate yourself to surrendering all areas of your life to him. Use the prayer again: *God, today I surrender my entire life to you and your purposes because you are trustworthy and know what is best for my future.*

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Purpose

Engage your family in talking about how you can surrender and trust God as a family through building on the WACC Kids' lesson from Sunday. If your family has more time, you can do the optional activity. If you have less time, skip down to the "Lesson Connection Questions."

Optional Activity: Free Falling

Have the kids take turns doing a trust fall. They cross their arms to grab their shoulders. Mom, dad, and/or other family members can get behind them and lock arms so that the person falls straight back into their arms. You can put pillows down for added protection. Tell the faller to stay straight and stiff like a board and fall into the safety net of mom, dad, and/or other family members' arms. The trust fall can also be done one-on-one, if an adult is catching the child.

Activity Connection Questions

1. Was free falling hard to do? Why? (*We are giving up control; we don't normally just let go and fall*)
2. Was it hard to trust that someone would catch you? Why or why not?

Lesson Connection Questions

1. What does it mean to trust? (*You can connect their answer to the following definition: to lean our whole weight upon*)
2. Read: Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
What does it mean to trust God? (*Leaning on him as He guides and leads us*)
3. What is one thing that you want to trust God with?
 - At church, you wrote on a rock something you want to trust God with. Do you remember what you wrote?
 - Why did you choose that?
4. How can we trust God as a family like never before?

Prayer

Spend time giving thanks to God for how he has been trustworthy in providing for your family. Pray the prayer from Sunday as a family: *God, today we trust you and surrender (or give up) our lives to you and your purposes because you are trustworthy and know what is best for our futures.*

LISTEN LIKE NEVER BEFORE

NOVEMBER 12

MESSAGE NOTES

1 Kings 19:11-12 Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

You must make _____ in your soul and in your life if you want to listen for God's direction.

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God

You must remove _____ and _____ from your life in order to listen for God's voice. (Ps. 131:2; John 10:27; Ps. 23:2)

James 1:5-6 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt

Listening requires believing that God has the _____ and the _____ to speak to you. (Jn 10:27; 1 Sam 3:10)

Listening to God is not only an _____ activity. It can also be done in _____. (Acts 13:1-4; Acts 15:1-2, 22, 28)

How will you slow down and find space to listen for God's voice this week?

Prayer

*God, give me ears to hear and eyes to see what you desire from me.
Speak Lord, your servant is listening.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Our God is the God who speaks. He chooses to communicate with us so we can know Him personally and also know what His will is for our lives. God whispered to Abraham, He spoke out loud to Moses, and His speech is embodied in the word of God who is Jesus. We just need to have a posture to listen.

1 Kings 19:11-12 shows some of the mystery of how God communicates with us. Though God is great and powerful, He is gentle with us and speaks in a way that we can hear.

Psalms 46:10 instructs us to be still. In our world this is becoming increasingly difficult to do. To be still we need to give our attention and focus to God. As we do, we become receptive to what God wants to say and how God wants to speak.

Questions

1. How have you heard God speak to you?
2. What do you find most challenging about being still?
3. What are some ways you recommend for creating space to hear God?
4. Read John 8:47 and 10:25-28. What does Jesus mean that His sheep will know His voice?
5. How does knowing Jesus more help us to hear His voice?
6. How do you discern God's voice from other voices?
7. Read 1 Samuel 3:10. What do you notice about Samuel's posture toward God? What would this look like in your life?
8. What is the importance of being in community with others while listening to God?

Reflection

St. Augustine said, "True, whole prayer is nothing but love." God longs for deep connection with us. When we take the time to interact with God by speaking and listening to Him, the by product is love.

Prayer

Spend time being still before God. Remove any distractions. Then take time to just listen. Take a posture of openness to what God wants to say to you. Consider writing down any thoughts or feelings that flow out of your time in prayer. Begin your time with this simple prayer. *Dear God, I am so grateful you want to speak to me. I want to listen. Speak in a way that I can hear your will. Meet me as I pray like never before.*

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Purpose

Engage your family in talking about how you can listen to God as a family through building on the WACC Kids' lesson from Sunday. If your family has more time, you can do the optional activity. If you have less time, skip down to the "Lesson Connection Questions."

Optional Activity: The Whisper Challenge

Have your family write out short phrases on small pieces of papers that will be mouthed or whispered as part of the challenge. Have one family member either plug their ears or listen to music on headphones, while other family members take turns mouthing or whispering the phrase. Set a timer for 15-20 seconds and see who can get the most in that amount of time. Examples of possible phrases to use would be: "I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream." Or "Chick-Fil-A is my life."

Activity Connection Question:

1. What did you have to do in order to figure out what the other person was saying? (*Pay attention, focus, etc.*)

Lesson Connection Questions

1. How do you think God speaks to us? (*Through the Bible, spending time with him in prayer, other people, his creation, etc.*)
2. If you did the activity, imagine doing that with someone clapping their hands near your face the whole time you were trying to complete the challenge. Would it have been easier or harder?
3. Sometimes, there can be a lot of distractions in life that make it hard for us to hear God when he is speaking to us, but he wants to talk to us. What do you think can get in the way of us hearing God when he is speaking to us? (*We are distracted with other things; we are too busy*)
4. What can we do to pay attention to hear what God is saying?
5. Read: 1 Samuel 3:10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'
How does Samuel respond to God in this verse?
6. What can we learn from his response?
7. Share: Share with your kids a time when God spoke to you. If you have a story from when you were younger, it may help them connect even more with the concept.
8. How can we listen to God like never before as a family?

Prayer

Pray the prayer from Sunday as a family: *God, give us ears to hear and eyes to see what you desire from us. Speak Lord, we are listening.*



OBEY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

NOVEMBER 19

MESSAGE NOTES

Joshua 1:7-9 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

In obedience, God will make a _____, but you have to take the first _____.

John 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

God's power is often released when you choose the _____ of obedience.

Joshua 3:8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"

Everybody in life faces a _____ moment.

No one can get their feet _____ for you.

Joshua 10:14 There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a man. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!

What is the spiritual risk that God is calling you to step into this week?
What is God calling you to surrender to him today?

Prayer

God, give me the courage to take the first step of obedience, knowing that your power is made perfect in my weakness.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Loving relationships include both sides doing their part. This is the same for our relationship with God. God always does His part. He is faithful to provide us with guidance, strength, and support. In response, we do our part by being obedient to His direction for our lives.

Exodus 23:22 If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.

James 1:22-25 Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that finds freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

Questions

1. Describe a time in your life when you asked someone to do something but they didn't follow through. What happened? How did it make you feel?
2. What happens to relationships when they are one sided?
3. Why is it important to God that we obey his commands?
4. What are some things that God asks us to do? Which of these do we find most challenging?
5. Have you ever felt God asking you to do something specific? What was it? What were the outcomes of the situation?
6. What does obedience to God look like in the season ahead for WACC?

Reflection

Obedience is not always easy. Sometimes God asks His followers to obey even when it seems scary. It is because God loves us, wants to draw us into deeper communion with him, and has plans for us to experience greater things that He gives us commands and expects us to obey.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer for the Like Never Before journey. Pray for greater strength and clarity on how we can obey God in the season ahead. Consider starting with this simple prayer. *King Jesus, you want me to obey and I want to be faithful. Please show me clearly what you want me to be and how I can take the next step.*

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Purpose

Engage your family in talking about how you can obey God as a family through building on the WACC Kids' lesson from Sunday. If your family has more time, you can do the optional activity. If you have less time, skip down to the "Lesson Connection Questions."

Optional Activity: The Walk of Faith

Find a space in your house or outside that has room to move around. Depending on the amount of time you have or the ages of your kids, you can set up an obstacle course using things like pillows, toys, cones, or anything else you have on hand.

A family member can act as a buddy while another family member is the walker. Have the walker close their eyes, or use blindfolds, so the buddy can guide them through the course. Without stepping on or bumping into anything or anyone, the walker must move through the course. This is only possible with the help of the partner. The walkers must listen to (obey and trust) their buddy to get through the course safely. Let family members switch roles to allow everyone to participate.

This activity becomes age-appropriate for younger children if you create an area that requires walking forward to step over, climb under, move around, and go through obstacles. For older kids, you lead them through the course backwards.

Activity Connection Questions:

1. What was the hardest part of going through this challenge?
(i.e. not being able to see, having to rely on someone else, a specific part of the course)
2. How were you able to get from the start to the finish of the course?
(by listening to the guide)
3. Was it easy or hard to trust the guide? *(remind kids that trust means to lean on)*

Lesson Connection Questions:

1. Gideon, the person from that Bible that you (WACC Kids) learned about on Sunday, led 300 men to defeat an army of 135,000 people. How was this possible?
2. Why did God tell Gideon to send the others home? *(With such a small army, Gideon and the Israelites would know that God was in control and that the only way they won was because of God's power.)*
3. What ended up happening because Gideon obeyed God? (His small army defeated the large Midianite army through God's power. Maybe share how you saw a similar theme when you learned about Joshua in "Big Church.")
4. How can we be obedient to God this week? Is there anything that God might be asking you to do that will take trust?

God can do more than we could ever ask or imagine, and whatever he is asking you to do will be possible in his strength and in His power. It is a great thing to be obedient to God and be part of his great plan.

Read: *Judges 7:7 The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home."*

Prayer

Pray the prayer from Sunday as a family: *God, give us the courage to take the first step of obedience, knowing that your power is made perfect in our weakness.*

SACRIFICE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

NOVEMBER 26

MESSAGE NOTES

Luke 21:1-4 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

God has a special place in his heart for _____ and orphans, and we need to protect them and support them (Jam 1:27; Ps 68:5)

Jesus notices the offerings we give, but looks to our _____ (1 Sam 16:7)

In the business of giving, heaven pays the most attention to the spiritual business that goes on the _____ of your heart. (2 Cor. 9:7)

Malachi 1:8-13 When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty.

Glorify God by giving your best.

God gave his _____ for us, and he deserves no _____ from us.

3 Types of Giving

1. _____
2. _____ Gift
3. _____ Gift

What type of giving do you feel God challenging you to take a step in, in this season?

Prayer

God, you gave us your best and deserve no less from me. Give me the faithfulness to tithe and the sensitivity to hear your Spirit's promptings. Thank you for the joy it is to bring my best sacrifices to you.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Jesus modeled exactly how God wants us to live. He gave his life to serving others. He was obedient to the Father even when that meant going to the cross. Jesus loved sacrificially, he gave sacrificially, and he died sacrificially. Jesus invites us to live the same way.

Luke 21:2-3 “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Background

God’s economics are not always our economics. The woman in this story puts a Lepton (type of coin) into the offering. A lepton would be equivalent to the wage earned for about 4 minutes of work in a 10-hour day. For Luke to say this was all she had, then we can assume she was very poor and yet she still gave. To this very day we remember her. How will we be remembered?

Questions

1. What have been some times in your life when you made a great sacrifice? Was it worth it in the end?
2. Who is someone you know that lives sacrificially? What do you notice about their life?
3. Why does God value the cost of the sacrifice and the heart behind the decision rather than the amount?
4. How do we determine whether we are giving sacrificially or not?
5. Read Matthew 6:1. Jesus cares about our motives. How can we make sure we are giving for God and not for man?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Why do you think giving cheerfully is important?

Reflection

Giving is an opportunity to worship God and experience love. Whether we are caring for the most vulnerable women and children around the world, or we are building a place for more people to hear the Gospel, God can be glorified. Anything we give should be for the glory of Jesus.

Prayer

Take time to pray as a group. Pray for our entire congregation. Pray that God would guide all of us into giving sacrificially. Consider beginning your time with this simple prayer. *Lord, show me what I have. Help me to know what my sacrifice should be. May you receive all the glory from our gifts.*

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Purpose

Engage your family in talking about what sacrifice means through building on the WACC Kids' lesson from Sunday. The following activity is easy and a great way to start the discussion.

Optional Activity: Better Together Brainstorming

1. Work together to come up with a definition for sacrifice, and have one family member act as the scribe/recorder in writing down that definition. (*Ex: Sacrifice is the act of giving up something valuable to you whether it be time, treasure, or desire for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.*)
2. Work together to create a list of examples of sacrifice in your communities and lives.

Activity Connection Question:

1. What does it show about a person's heart when they are willing to sacrifice something for someone else? (*They are kind, put others before themselves, etc.*)

Lesson Connection Questions

1. What are some things you have that you would think are your "best things?"
2. What would it feel like to give those things up?
3. What "best thing" did God give so that we could have Jesus as our best friend forever?
4. Read: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God the Father gave up His Son, and God the Son, Jesus, gave up his life for us. He gave us his best. What would it look like to give him our best?
5. Ask if the kids remember what Jesus' followers or the disciples gave up to follow Jesus. (*Mt. 4:20 says they "immediately left their nets and followed him." They gave up everything when it came to the life that they knew in order to follow Jesus.*)
6. If you have time, share what you learned about the widow's offering in "Big Church."
7. Ask again and consider as a family— what would it look like to give God our best right now in our lives?

Prayer

Pray the prayer from Sunday with your family: *God, you gave us your best and deserve no less from us. Please give us the faithfulness to give up whatever you lead us to give. Thank you for the joy it is to bring our best sacrifices to you.*



WORSHIP LIKE NEVER BEFORE

DECEMBER 3

MESSAGE NOTES

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The question is not _____, but _____ are you going to treasure.

Our treasures are the things to which we assign great _____.

Psalm 115:4-8 But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

You will _____ like the gods that you worship.

To worship God means to _____ him above everything else. (Matt. 22:37; Ex. 20:2-3)

It's possible to claim to treasure one god while your life is _____ to another. (Isa. 29:13)

Whatever it is you truly treasure about all else, you will _____ for.

Sacrifice is the _____ of love.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

3 Areas to Worship as a Living Sacrifice

1. _____ (Phil. 2:17)
2. Sacrificial _____ (Phil. 4:15,18)
3. Sacrifice of _____ (2 Tim. 4:6-7)

How is God calling you to be a “living sacrifice” in your worship of him today?

Prayer

God, my desire is to treasure you above all else in this world. I offer you my life today as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing because of Jesus’ sacrifice for me.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Every single one of us has been created to be treasuring creatures. When it comes to someone’s treasures, you’re dealing with what is core to their life. People give their best thoughts and time to the focus of their treasure. It may be a car, a dream home, a certain look, a certain position, or a certain amount of money. There is a lot of worshipping going on. You cannot divorce humanity from worship. We are going to worship something. That is why choosing to worship God first is one of the most important decisions we will ever make.

Background

The following is from the Purpose Driven Life:

Worship is far more than music. Actually, worship predates music. Adam worshiped in the Garden of Eden, but music isn’t mentioned until Genesis 4:21 with the birth of Jubal. If worship were just music, then all who are nonmusical could never worship. Worship is far more than music.

Even worse, “worship” is often misused to refer to a particular style of music: “First we sang a hymn, then a praise and worship song.” Or, “I like the fast praise songs but enjoy the slow worship songs the most.” In this usage, if a song is fast or loud or uses brass instruments, it’s considered “praise.” But if it is slow and quiet and intimate, maybe accompanied by guitar, that’s worship. This is a common misuse of the term “worship.”

Worship has nothing to do with the style or volume or speed of a song. God loves all kinds of music because he invented it all — fast and slow, loud and soft, old and new. You probably don’t like it all, but God does! If it is offered to God in spirit and truth, it is an act of worship.

Questions

1. Being honest, what do you spend most of your time thinking about?
2. What are you most prone to treasure in your life, when you do not worship God first?
3. John said, "You will become like the gods that you worship." Have you ever seen this to be true or untrue in what you have observed? Share your thoughts.
4. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says "And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more." How have you found that God has transformed your life to be more like him, as you have treasured him?
5. Knowing that earthly treasure never lasts...What causes you to lose sight of the eternal and focus on the temporal?
6. Can you think of any ways a person could know if they were worshipping money instead of God? Or God instead of money?
7. Read Romans 11:36. Where in your daily routine can you become more aware of God's glory? What common task could you start doing as if doing it directly for Jesus?
8. John talked about three sacrifices of worship for God: relationally, sacrificial giving, and the sacrifice of endurance. Do you sense God encouraging you to take a step to sacrifice in any of these ways in this season? If so, please share.

Reflection

C. S. Lewis said, "In commanding us to glorify him, God is inviting us to enjoy him." This means that God desires our worship to be motivated by love and delight, not duty. Another famous writer puts it like this, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."

Prayer

Spend time honestly sharing with God areas of your life that you have been prone to treasure above him: Pray the following prayer: *God, my desire is to treasure you above all else in this world. I offer you my life today as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing because of Jesus' sacrifice for me.*

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Purpose

Engage your family in talking about how you can worship God as a family through building on the WACC Kids' lesson from Sunday. If your family has more time, you can do the optional activity. If you have less time, skip down to the "Lesson Connection Questions."

Optional Activity: Treasure Hunt

Ask each family member go on a very short and simple treasure hunt in your house. Ask each member to go find the most important item that they own. If it is too big, they can share what it is. Examples of important items could be something like a tablet, phone, their Bible, favorite toy, favorite item of clothing, favorite video game, or a meaningful gift they received. Have each family member go around and share why it is so important to them.

Activity Connection Questions

1. How much do you value that item? How much time you spend playing with it? What would you do to protect that item? How would you feel if you lost that item? *(Guide them to a place of understanding what it means to treasure something.)*

Lesson Connection Questions

1. What does it mean to treasure something? *(We lift it up as being special, important, or valuable.)*
2. If you didn't do the activity, you can say and ask: When we treasure something, we value it. What are some of things in life that you value?
3. How can valuing something affect how we live? *(You sacrifice time, energy, maybe even other things you like in order to keep that thing you treasure. This can even be something like popularity, sports, etc.)*
4. What do you think Jesus would want us to treasure most? *(Jesus wants us to treasure God most out of everything else in the world.)*
5. Read: Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Where does Jesus say to store up your treasures?
6. Why does he say to store up your treasures in heaven instead of on earth?
7. Sometimes at church, when we sing songs to God, we call it worship. Worshipping God is treasuring him above everything else in this world. The Bible tells us that we don't just worship God through singing songs, but we worship through how we live. What do you think it means to worship God with our lives? *(We spend our time with him by praying and reading our Bibles; we serve others with our hearts out of love for God; we sacrifice through giving to God and others.)*
8. How can we worship God with our lives today?

Prayer

Pray the prayer from Sunday as a family: *God, our desire is to treasure you more than anything else in this world. We worship you by giving you our lives today because of Jesus' sacrifice for us.*



LIKE NEVER



BEFORE





[HTTP://LIKENEVERBEFORE.WACC.NET](http://likeneverbefore.wacc.net)