

Family Worship Guide

Chronological Reading Plan

Week 8: February 19-25

Read Leviticus 23:26-32

Younger Children

- Before you begin get a fun snack. Set the snack on the table and tell the children you are going to pretend the snack belongs to someone they know (grandma, friend, etc) and you are not supposed to eat it. Then say that the snack looks really yummy, and you think you'll eat it anyway. Pick up the snack and begin to eat it. Do you think I made a good choice by eating their snack? Did I do what was right? No, I didn't. I made a bad choice. I ate the snack when it belonged to someone else. Do you think God would be pleased with my choice? No, He would not. Remember we learned that God's people are supposed to be different and obey God's laws. When we choose to do things that we know are wrong, we are disobeying God. Sin is disobeying God.

- God is holy. That means God never sinned and He never will. He is different from everyone else. God loves us so much that He sent someone who can help us turn from our sin. He sent Jesus. When we make bad choices and choose to sin, we can pray and ask Jesus to help us turn away from our sin. Next time, if someone tells me that I cannot eat his/her snack, would it be okay if I eat it anyway? No, it would not be okay. Remember, God sent Jesus to help us make good choices, so that we can show others that God is holy.

Older Children

If possible, have on hand an old ceramic coffee mug. Also have a small bag, a hammer and some glue.

- Show your children the mug and explain that you all are going to pretend. "We are going to pretend that this coffee mug is your mom's favorite mug. Pretend it is expensive and irreplaceable. No one is supposed to touch or hold the mug except mom." Let everyone examine the mug and highlight the fact that the mug is perfect. "See what a lovely mug it is? There are no cracks or holes in it. It is perfect! We are also going to pretend that we disobeyed and played with the mug and broke it." Ask for a volunteer to break the mug. Place the mug in the bag and have the volunteer hit it with the hammer. Don't shatter it; simply break it so there are two or three large pieces. "Now the mug is no longer perfect. We disobeyed the rules and disobeyed mom and now it is broken. Because of our sin, we are broken before God, just like the mug is broken.

- The Day of Atonement was a time set aside each year for the Israelites to reflect upon and turn away from their sin so God could forgive them. Rather than go to work or school, the Israelites spent time thinking about their sin and how they could be more like God. Then they would sacrifice animals to the Lord as a way to pay for their sin. Now go back to the broken mug. "We broke the mug, so we need to sacrifice our time playing outside today to fix it. We will spend time thinking about our disobedience so we can ask mom for forgiveness for breaking her mug." Work together to glue the mug back together. Then say, "Can we make this mug look as if it had never been broken? No, we can't. Even though we have glued it back together, we can still see the breaks. It is no longer perfect."

- The good news for us is that Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice (atonement) for our sins so we no longer have to. Because He died on the cross, we can be holy and pure before God. We will still face consequences for our sins, just like the cracks in the broken mug. We will still need to reflect upon and turn away from our sins and toward Christ, but the payment to repair our sin has already been made. When we trust in the blood of Jesus to pay for our sins, we look as if they never happened. Because of this sacrifice, God, who is perfect and holy, sees us as perfect and holy, too.

Pray, thanking God for His sacrificial gift of Jesus. Ask God to help us turn (repent) from living our life our way to living our life God's way. Thank Him for His forgiveness, even when we don't obey.