

Unit 17



family

DEVOTIONAL

The Victory of Jesus



Answers Bible Curriculum

Unit 17 • Family Devotional

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Printed in China.



Introduction

Welcome to the Answers Bible Curriculum family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple of nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training their children and teaching them the things of the Lord:

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.” (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

We suggest that you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the scriptures and the questions that follow them and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller pieces.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and he delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that his wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



The Triumphal Entry

Lesson Summary

This unit covers the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry. We have been looking at Jesus' authority, miracles, teachings, and mission. Through the next several lessons, we will see the culmination of all Jesus came to accomplish.

Our lesson this week looked at the celebration as Jesus entered Jerusalem the Sunday before his crucifixion. Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem as a king. His disciples recognized him as the Son of David, the Messiah who had come in the name of the Lord to save his people. But the jubilant crowd had no idea that in a few short days their celebrated King would be crucified in their holy city. They did not truly understand what it meant to be the Messiah.

This week we will look at John chapter 12, which includes the triumphal entry as well as a few important teachings of Jesus.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

John 12:1–8

1. What did Mary do for Jesus?
2. How did Judas respond? What did Jesus tell him?

John 12:9–11

3. What did some of the Jews who came to Bethany want to see?
4. Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Lazarus? What does this reveal about their hearts?

John 12:12–19

5. What was the significance of the triumphal entry?
6. How did the people respond to Jesus?

7. How did the Pharisees respond?

John 12:20–26

8. To what was Jesus referring when he spoke about a grain of wheat dying?

9. What does Jesus require of those who want to follow him?

John 12:27–36

10. For what purpose had Jesus come?

11. What did Jesus mean when he said that now judgment was coming on the world and the ruler of the world would be cast out?

John 12:37–41

12. Why didn't some people believe in Jesus, though they had seen many signs?

John 12:42–50

13. Why did many of the Jewish leaders not confess Jesus openly?

14. Why did Jesus come? What does he promise to those who believe in him?

15. What will happen to those who reject him and don't receive his words?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Prayer

Praise God for sending Jesus as the spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Thank him for his perfect Word that tells us of Jesus—his life, death, and resurrection.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Rebukes the Pharisees

Lesson Summary

This week, we looked at how Jesus interacted with the religious leaders of his day. He regularly pointed out errors in the way they were thinking, and to make their error clear, he pointed to the authority of the Scriptures that they claimed to follow. He held them to the standards provided in God's Word, clearly telling them that their traditions were not the right standard to be following.

This week we'll be looking at what Scripture says to us about how we are to interact with those who are not teaching the Word of God correctly.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1. How are we to discern false teachers and false teaching?

- 1 John 4:1–6

- Matthew 7:15–20

- 1 Timothy 6:3–5

2. What is the source of false teaching?

- 1 Timothy 4:1–4

- 2 Corinthians 11:13–15

3. How are we to respond to false teachers?

- 1 Timothy 1:3-7

- Romans 16:17

- 2 Timothy 4:1-5

- Titus 1:10-13

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Prayer

Thank God for the truth of his Word. Ask him for discernment to recognize false teaching, for wisdom to know how to respond, and for boldness to stand for the truth.

Family Prayer Requests:



The Last Supper

Lesson Summary

This week we looked at the last Passover meal that Jesus shared with his apostles on the night before he was arrested. The blessing and eating together of this meal pointed to the suffering he was about to endure on the cross.

That night Jesus had many things to share with his followers. John 13–17 records these final words of Jesus before he would go to the cross. We want to take these next two weeks to look at this important passage of Scripture.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

John 13:1–17

1. What did Jesus know, and how did this allow him to love and serve his disciples in this way (vv. 1–4)?
2. Who inspired Judas to betray Jesus (v. 2)?
3. What did Jesus do for his disciples? Why did Peter respond the way he did?
4. What lesson did Jesus want to teach to his disciples by washing their feet (vv. 12–17)?

John 13:18–30

5. What was going to happen that would fulfill the Scriptures (v. 18)?
6. How did Jesus identify his betrayer (vv. 23–26)?
7. Who was behind Judas' actions (v. 27)?

John 13:31–38

8. Where was Jesus going to go?
9. What was Jesus' command to his disciples? What would be the result of them obeying the command (vv. 34–35)?
10. What was Peter's boast, and how did Jesus respond?

John 14:1–14

11. What did Jesus promise in verses 1–3?
12. What claim did Jesus make in verse 6?
13. What is the relationship between Jesus and the Father (vv. 7–11)?
14. What does Jesus promise in verses 13–14?

John 14:15–31

15. What do we do if we love Jesus? And what does Jesus promise for those who love him (vv. 15, 21)?

16. What is the role of the Holy Spirit, the Helper, according to this passage?
17. What kind of peace does Jesus give his people (v. 27)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Prayer

Thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for sin. Ask him to help you serve others as Jesus served his disciples and to abide in him and rest in his peace.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Prays for His Followers

Lesson Summary

The longest recorded prayer of Jesus was given just hours before his death and was delivered on behalf of his followers. Jesus recognized that his hour had come and that his disciples would be left in this world that hated them. He asked God to guard them, keep them from the evil one, and sanctify them. But he didn't only pray for his core disciples or even for all of his followers at that time. He prayed for all followers, even those who had not yet believed, but would come to believe through the words of his disciples.

This week we are going to continue to look at what Jesus shared with his disciples just hours before his arrest and trial. John 13-17 records these final words of Jesus.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

John 15:1–17

1. In this metaphor, identify the vine, the branches, and the vinedresser.
2. What does it mean to “abide” in Christ? What are the results of doing so? What are the results of not abiding in Christ?
3. What is Christ’s commandment?
4. What kind of fruit does he want us to bear?

John 15:18–25

5. Why does the world hate Jesus? Why does the world hate his followers?

John 15:26–16:15

6. What are the functions and roles of the Holy Spirit, the Helper, according to this passage?

7. Why will persecution come upon Jesus' followers?

John 16:16–33

8. What did Jesus mean when he said, “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me . . . because I am going to the Father”?

9. What does Jesus promise in verses 23–24?

John 17:1–26

10. What is eternal life, and to whom does Jesus give it?

11. What do we learn about Jesus from verse 5?

12. How had Jesus' disciples responded to his words (vv. 6–8)?

13. List the things that Jesus prayed for his disciples in verses 11–26.

14. Was he only praying for those who were with him on that night (see v. 20)?
15. How are we sanctified according to verse 17?
16. What would be the result of unity among Jesus' followers (vv. 20–23)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Prayer

Praise God for sending Jesus to walk the earth and show us the character of God himself. Thank him for the richness of his Word. Ask him to sanctify you as you spend time in his Word.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Is Arrested

Lesson Summary

The night Jesus was arrested, Peter followed behind Jesus and the guards to see what would happen. As Peter waited in the courtyard, he was recognized as one of Jesus' disciples. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times in a row that evening because he was afraid. When he realized what he had done, he wept and was sorry. Later, after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter, and Peter was able to tell his Lord that he loved him! Three times Jesus asked if Peter loved him. Three times Peter answered yes! Jesus forgave Peter and commissioned him as a leader in the church.

This week, we are going to look at the great forgiveness offered to us in the gospel. Even when we stumble and fall, like Peter did, God is there waiting to restore us back to fellowship with him.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they teach us about the gospel and the forgiveness of sins.

- Ephesians 1:7-9

- Colossians 1:13-14

- 1 Peter 2:21-25

- 1 John 1:5-10

- Psalm 103:8–12

- Acts 13:38–39

- Colossians 2:13–14

- 2 Corinthians 5:18–21

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Prayer

Thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, as Savior and redeemer. Thank him for providing a sacrifice for sin. Praise him that he is a God of mercy and grace, offering total forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Ask him for boldness to share this good news with others.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Is Crucified

Lesson Summary

Jesus was beaten and mocked. A crown of thorns was placed upon his head, and he was told to carry his cross to Golgotha. Nailed to the cross, Jesus suffered the Father's wrath and paid the penalty for the sin that was laid upon him. Knowing that he had completed the task the Father had sent him to do, Jesus said, "It is finished," and died.

This week we'll look at what God's Word has to say about the significance of the death of Jesus.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Romans 3:21–26

1. What has been manifested to all?
2. How are we justified?
3. What do the words *redemption* and *propitiation* mean?
4. How, in the death of Christ, is God shown to be both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus?

Romans 5:6–11

5. For whom did Christ die? What does this demonstrate?
6. What do the words *justified* and *reconciled* mean? How are we justified and reconciled?

Hebrews 9:24–28

7. How is Jesus' sacrifice different from the sacrifices of the high priest in the temple?

8. What did Jesus put away by his death?

9. Why was Christ offered? How will his second coming be different from his first coming?

Colossians 1:19–23, 2:13–15

10. What dwelt fully in Jesus?

11. What has Christ reconciled to himself?

12. What is the goal of our reconciliation through Christ's death?

13. What have we been forgiven in Christ?

14. What happened to the record of debt that was against us?
15. What happened to the “rulers and authorities” because of Christ’s death on the cross?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 John 5:4–5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Prayer

Thank God that Jesus was obedient to the point of death. Praise God for the salvation Jesus secured on the cross. Ask him for compassion for those who are outside of Christ, that you may have boldness in sharing the hope of the gospel with them.

Family Prayer Requests:



The Resurrection of Jesus

Lesson Summary

Jesus died on the cross, paying the punishment for sin. He was buried, but he didn't stay in the tomb. A number of women went to Jesus' tomb early on Sunday morning. They found the stone to the tomb rolled away, the tomb empty, and an angel of the Lord there. The angel told them Jesus was risen from the dead! On their way to tell the disciples the good news, they saw Jesus and worshipped him.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is important because it provides an inheritance for believers—a living hope of eternal life with God. This week we'll examine the accounts of Jesus' resurrection in the Gospels.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 28:1–15

1. Why did the women go to the tomb?

2. What message did the angel give the women? What did the women do?

3. What story did the chief priests and elders invent to explain away the empty tomb?

Mark 16:1–8

4. According to Mark, who came to the tomb early on Sunday morning?

5. How do the details in Mark differ from those in Matthew?

6. What was the initial reaction of Jesus' disciples to the news of the resurrection?

Luke 24:1-12

7. How are the details in verses 1-12 different from Mark's and Matthew's accounts?

John 20:1-10

8. How do the details in verses 1-18 compare with the other accounts you have read?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Prayer

Praise God for the perfect life, atoning death, and powerful resurrection of Jesus. Ask him to make you bold in your witness, to not be afraid to tell others about him and his offer of eternal life.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Lesson Summary

Jesus rose from the dead bodily and appeared physically to more than 15 individuals, as well as several gatherings. Jesus is alive. He defeated death and the grave, securing our eternal hope. As Jesus explained to Cleopas, the entire Old Testament pointed to the coming of Jesus and God's plan to redeem mankind from the power of sin.

This week we will examine how the Gospel writers described several of these post-resurrection appearances.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 28:16–20

1. Where did Jesus appear and to whom?
2. What was Jesus' last command to his disciples before he went back to heaven?

Luke 24:13–53

3. What happened on the road to Emmaus?
4. How does the Emmaus account support the authority of Scripture?
5. How did Cleopas and the other disciple know they were talking with Jesus?

6. How did Jesus' disciples react when he stood in their midst (vv. 36–43)?

7. How are verses 46–53 similar to Matthew 28:18–20?

John 20:11–31

8. When did Mary's encounter with Jesus take place? How does this fit with the other Gospel accounts?

9. What message did Jesus give to his disciples?

10. How did Thomas react to the risen Lord (vv. 24–28)?

11. Why did John write his Gospel (vv. 30–31)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Prayer

Praise God for his power over sin and death. Thank him for presenting himself alive to many and proving his victory. Ask him to give us boldness and confidence to live in victory and the hope of the resurrection.

Family Prayer Requests:



The Ascension of Jesus

Lesson Summary

After rising from the dead and appearing to many people over a period of 40 days, Jesus ascended to his Father in heaven. He had completed his mission on earth, satisfied the wrath of God, and made salvation available to all who would repent and trust in him.

Jesus' last command to his followers was that they preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations. All believers share in that same responsibility and are called to go to all nations with the gospel of truth. This is important because the gospel is the good news, and it alone can bring eternal life.

In order to make disciples, we need to know what one looks like. This week we'll be looking at what Jesus said about being his disciple.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they teach us about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

- Matthew 16:24–28

- Mark 1:16–20

- Mark 8:34–38

- Luke 6:20–26

- Luke 14:25–33

- Luke 22:24–27

- John 8:31–36

- John 13:1–16

- John 15:1–21

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 John 5:4–5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Prayer

Thank God for the truth of his Word. Ask him to strengthen you by grace so that you may become a devoted disciple of Jesus. Ask him to continue to reveal to you what it means to follow him.

Family Prayer Requests:



Unit Review

Lesson Summary

This week is a review week. We have seen how Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem as a King just days before the Jews would demand his crucifixion. Jesus knew what he faced, and yet he humbly and willingly submitted to the will of the Father, suffering death on a cross to offer forgiveness to his enemies. But Jesus did not stay dead; he rose from the grave on the third day.

We can have assurance that Jesus is risen and has conquered death because God has revealed it to us in his Word. We have no reason to doubt that truth, and the skeptics have no real reason to reject it either. Sure, it is a miracle. Sure, we must receive it by faith. But it is not a blind faith. Rather, it is a faith that is firmly rooted in God's character and his revelation to us.

This week we will be examining the importance of the resurrection of Jesus as the Apostle Paul laid it out in 1 Corinthians 15.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

1. What about Christ is “of first importance”?
2. What are the basic facts of the gospel according to verses 3–5?
3. Why did Paul stress Christ’s appearances (vv. 5–8)?
4. How did Paul compare his work to that of other apostles?
5. What did Paul attribute his life and labor to?

1 Corinthians 15:12–34

6. What false teaching was being spread among the Corinthians?

7. What are the implications if Christ was NOT raised from the dead?

8. What are the implications if Christ WAS raised from the dead?

9. In verses 21–22, what occurred “in Adam,” and what has occurred “in Christ”?

10. What is the order of events described in verses 23–28?

1 Corinthians 15:35–58

11. What three analogies did Paul use in discussing the nature of resurrection (vv. 36–41)? What do these analogies teach us about our resurrected bodies?

12. Explain the connection between sin and death and between sin and the law.

13. What will happen when the trumpet sounds (vv. 51–55)?

14. What motivates you to push on with the Christian life?

Memory Verses

Review the memory verses with your family.

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 John 5:4–5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Prayer

Praise God for his power over sin and death. Thank him for the hope of the resurrection. Ask God for a deeper appreciation of Jesus' sacrifice and a burden to share the gospel with others.

Family Prayer Requests:
