Family Discipleship Guide

Romans 2:17-24

Main Idea:

God wants us not only to know His truth, but to live it.

Family Goal:

Help every family member understand the difference between simply knowing God's Word and obeying God's Word.

1. Opening Activity

"Can You Do What You Say?"

Ask family members:

- Have you ever told someone to do something that you weren't doing yourself?
- Have you ever told a sibling to clean their room while your room was messy?
- Have you ever told someone to be kind while you were being unkind?

After everyone shares, say:

It's easy to see what other people should do. It's much harder to obey God's truth ourselves. In *Romans 2*, Paul warns people who knew God's law and taught others, but weren't living what they taught.

2. Read the Scripture

Read *Romans 2:17-24* together.

For younger children, summarize:

The Jewish people knew God's commands and taught others about God. But many of them were not obeying God's commands themselves. Paul reminds them that knowing God's Word isn't enough. We must obey it too.

3. Discuss the Scripture

-1st Point: Knowing God's Truth Is a Privilege

Ask:

- Why is having a Bible (God's Word) a blessing?
- Why is it important to learn God's Word?
- What are some ways our family learns about God?

Explain:

God gave His people His truth because He loved them. We are blessed to have Bibles, a church, pastors, teachers, and parents who teach us God's Word.

But simply having a Bible does not automatically change us.

-2nd Point: We Must Live What We Know

Ask:

- Why is it easy to tell others what they should do?
- Why is it hard to obey God's Word ourselves?
- Can you think of a time you knew the right thing but didn't do it?

Read *James 1:22:*

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Explain:

God wants His truth to move from our **heads** to our **hearts** and then into our **actions**.

Examples:

- Knowing about forgiveness means forgiving others.
- Knowing about kindness means being kind.
- Knowing about honesty means telling the truth.

3rd Point: Others Watch Our Example

Ask:

- Who watches how you live?
- How can your actions help someone see Jesus?
- How can hypocrisy hurt our witness?

Explain:

People often notice our actions before they listen to our words.

Our goal isn't perfection. Our goal is honest obedience and repentance when we fail.

4. Family Application Activity

Give everyone a chance to finish this sentence:

"One truth I know but need to practice more is..."

Examples:

- Being patient.
- Telling the truth.
- Forgiving quickly.
- Being thankful.
- Showing kindness.
- Reading God's Word consistently.

After sharing, ask:

What is one specific thing you can do this week to obey that truth?

Encourage practical answers.

Examples:

- Apologize to a sibling.
- Help without being asked.
- Speak kindly when frustrated.
- Pray before responding in anger.

Memory Verse:

James 1:22 (ESV)

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

5. Closing Prayer

Parent Pray:

"Father, thank You for giving us Your Word. Forgive us for the times we know what is right but fail to do it. Help us not to be hypocrites who talk about Your truth without living it. Give us humble hearts that are willing to obey, repent, and follow Jesus. May our lives honor You and point others toward Christ. In Jesus' name, amen."

6. Family Challenge for the Week

Each night at dinner or bedtime, ask:

- "What is one way you obeyed God's Word today?"
- "What is one area where you need God's help to obey tomorrow?"

This helps your family move from simply **knowing** the truth to **living** the truth together.