

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 8

These are built to allow each family the opportunity to have a 5-15 minute devotional that includes Scripture, Questions, Activities, and Prayer. Please note that not all questions will be suitable for all ages, but do continue to challenge your kids with the tougher questions. When reading to children, please remember to use an easy to read version of the Bible such as the New Living Translation (NLT), God's Word Translation (GW), or the International Children's Bible (ICB). Each translation can be found at biblegateway.com or on the Bible app on your phone. Even with an easier translation, be prepared to simplify or explain some of the more difficult words that may come up.

Monday - Day 50

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story on Saturday? What happened?

Read:

Esther 2:5-7, 2:17-18, 3:1, 3:8-10, 3:14, 4:8-9, 5:1-2

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who was Mordecai?

What was Haman?

What did Haman want to do with the Jewish people?

What religion were Esther and Mordecai?

What did Mordecai ask Esther to do?

What did King Xerxes hold that allowed Esther to talk?

Activity:

Make yourself a crown out of paper and a scepter out of various items around the house such as a yard stick or an old Christmas wrapping paper tube. Then take turns pretending to be the king or queen of the castle. Have the king or queen put on a bath robe or a towel like a cape and sit in a big chair. Then have the other people in your family come in and the king or queen decides if the person will get to speak. Encourage your child to be generous with who they allow to speak because otherwise, they might not get to speak themselves.

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, thank you that you are our King. We are so happy because we know that, because you are our king, we can come and speak to you any time in prayer. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tuesday - Day 51

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened? What did Haman want to do to the Jewish people? What did Esther go and ask the king for?

Read:

Esther 5:1-4, 7:1-7a (read the first sentence), 8:1-5, 9:1

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Esther ask King Xerxes and Haman to come too?

During the dinner, what did Esther ask King Xerxes for?

How did King Xerxes react to Haman's evil plan?

What happened on the day that Haman's plan was supposed to happen?

Activity:

Tonight at dinner, have your child help serve the family dinner. (Examples: Ladle the soup, fill up the cups with water, set out the plates, etc. depending on your child's age and competency levels). Then tell them what a good job they did and how proud you are of them and ask them what request they might ask. (Note: You may want to qualify what they ask for to keep it within reason. So, "What food would you like for dessert?" or "What game would you like to play together tonight?" or "What movie would you like to watch this weekend?") Then grant it to them.

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, we pray that we not be scared, but that we can be bold when you ask us to be bold. We pray that we can remember you are always here for us no matter what. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Wednesday - Day 52

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened?

Read:

Jonah 1:1-5

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did God tell Jonah to do?

Did Jonah listen to God?

What did Jonah do instead?

What happened while Jonah was on the boat?

Where was Jonah while the storm was happening?

Activity:

Have your child try to lay down and go to sleep, then begin to make as much noise as possible. stomp, clap, shout like the sailors did, flash the lights in the room, blow on them, shake their bed, etc. Talk about how Jonah was able to sleep through the entire storm while everyone else was in a panic.

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, when you told Jonah to do something he disobeyed, but we pray that when you tell us to do something that we always obey you. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Thursday - Day 53

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened?

Read:

Note: To cast lots was like an ancient version of picking the shortest straw. It was an ancient superstition that whoever picked the shortest straw must be guilty. In this case God allowed Jonah to be picked being that it was Jonah's fault the storm was there.

Jonah 1:1-17 (will include the recap of verses 1-5)

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who did the lots say was guilty of making God unhappy and causing the storm?

Why did Jonah believe God was causing this storm?

What did Jonah tell the sailors to do to stop the storm?

What happened to the storm when the sailors threw Jonah overboard?

What happened to Jonah when the sailors threw him overboard?

Activity:

Even if you've seen one in person, the size of a whale can be difficult to understand. "At roughly 90 feet long, weighing an average 420,000 pounds, the blue whale is the biggest animal ever known to have lived on earth. Their tongues alone can weigh as much as an elephant. Their hearts, as much as a car. Their blood vessels are wide enough for a human to swim through." - bbc.co.uk

To help your child understand the size of a whale search the internet for, "Whale compared to a man." Help your child understand how little a man is compared to a whale, so it would be very easy for a man to fit into a whale. The insides of a whale's stomach would probably be bigger than any room in your house!

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, over the last few weeks we've learned about how you've used ravens and lions and whales to help the people you love. Thank you for making so many amazing animals and thank you for making us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Friday - Day 54

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened?

Read:

Read Jonah 1:17, 2:1-10

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Jonah do when he was swallowed by the fish?

Where was Jonah when he prayed his prayer?

What happened when Jonah was done with his prayer?

Where did the fish spit Jonah up?

How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish?

Activity:

Jonah disobeyed God and God had a fish swallow Jonah to help Jonah remember to obey God. Help your child this week when they disobey. Take your child and swallow them up in your arms. Then talk about how Jonah disobeyed God and the fish swallowed him up. Pray with your child to help them obey. Then carry or move your child to a safe location, maybe on the couch, and spit them up so, like Jonah, that they can now go and do the right thing.

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, when Jonah prayed to you, you helped him to follow you in everything that he did. Help us to be able to pray to you when we need something, and to follow of you in everything we do. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Saturday - Day 55

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened? Do you remember where God called Jonah to go (Jonah 1:1-2)?

Read:

Jonah 2:10, 3:1-10

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

After the fish spit Jonah out, what did God tell Jonah to do?

How long did it take Jonah to see all of Nineveh?

What was the message that Jonah preached?

How did the people of Nineveh act when Jonah told them God's message?

What did God do when the people of Nineveh were sorry for being bad?

Activity:

To show how sorry they were, the people of Nineveh took off their nice clothes, put on burlap. Burlap is a very uncomfortable clothing. If you have any burlap, show it to your children and let them feel it to understand what the people of Nineveh had to wear. If you do not have burlap, find the roughest fabric you have (possible fabrics to consider: a curtain, a rough rag you use to clean with, turning a jacket inside out so the rough side is against your skin). Let your child feel the rough fabric against their skin to know how uncomfortable that would be to wear for a long time. Explain that the reason the people of Nineveh wore their uncomfortable clothes was to show God they were sorry for acting bad.

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, thank you that, just like you forgave the people in Nineveh for being bad when they asked, you will also forgive us for being bad if we will ask. Help us to remember to always ask for forgiveness when we are bad. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Sunday - Day 56

Church:

Enjoy a day at church!

Questions:

What did you learn about in church today?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What was your favorite story from this week?

Prayer:

Each day, ask your children if they have anything they would like to pray for (aka prayer requests). If you have suggestions, place those in your prayer.

"Dear God, thank you for this week. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."