

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 9

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 57

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: While the people of Israel were in Babylon we saw Daniel in the lions den, queen Esther save the Jewish people, and Jonah get swallowed by a great big fish. After 70 years of being away from Israel the people of Israel remembered that they needed God. Even before they left Israel, God always had a plan to bring the people back, as he showed in...

Isaiah 44:28, Ezra 1:1-4, 3:7-8, 6:14-16, 6:22

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What was the name of the person Isaiah said would help the people of Israel?

What did King Cyrus tell the people of Israel to do?

Do you know what they call a temple today? (A church)

Why do you think that the church was the first thing they wanted to be built?

What did the people of Israel do when they finished building the church?

Activity:

When the people of Israel came back the first thing they did was build a temple. Today, have your child use square or rectangular objects to build a small temple. Use (Note: Tomorrow we're going to start building a wall around the temple so make sure your temple is size appropriate. Possible items could be cards and tape, chex mix squares and glue, etc.) Set the temple aside for tomorrow when the building of the wall begins.

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 we can come to you and ask for anything. You always listen to us and help us to remember that you'll always do what is best for us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tuesday - Day 58

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: While the people of Israel were in Babylon we saw Daniel in the lions den, queen Esther save the Jewish people, and Jonah get swallowed by a great big fish. After 70 years of being away from Israel the people of Israel remembered that they needed God. So God had them return to Israel. Nehemiah was a leader who helped the people return to Israel.
Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-8

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why was Nehemiah sad?

What did Nehemiah do when he was sad (see 1:4)?

When King Artaxerxes saw Nehemiah was sad, what did Nehemiah ask the king for?

Did King Artaxerxes give Nehemiah what he asked for?

Activity:

Just like Nehemiah, tomorrow we're going to start building a wall. Take your temple, then set it in the middle of a paper (even a newspaper if you need something bigger) space and draw a line where the walls are going to be. Have your child determine what things they'll need to build a good wall to protect the temple. Then have them request those things from you, and together you find them. Set them aside for tomorrow when the building of the wall begins.

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 we can come to you and ask for anything. You always listen to us and help us to remember that you'll always do what is best for us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Wednesday - Day 59

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened? What did Nehemiah ask the king for?

Read:

Nehemiah 2:9-12, 2:16-20, 4:1-6

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Nehemiah do when he first came to Jerusalem?

After Nehemiah had gone around the city, what did he tell the people?

How did the people respond to Nehemiah saying they would rebuild the wall?

What did Sanballat and Tobiah do or say to get Nehemiah to stop building the wall?

How much of the wall did the people of Israel get built by the end of today's story?

Activity:

Yesterday we outlined where the walls should be and we chose the things we want to build the wall with. Today, we begin building the wall. First, have your child look at where the wall will go, just like Nehemiah did. Have your child trace the line with their finger, may be measure it with a ruler. Then have your child start putting their wall together. You will be Sanballat, tell them they probably won't be able to build it. Tell them their wall looks weak and they should probably give up. Ask them how that makes them feel. Remind them that's what Nehemiah had to go through when he was building his wall and it must have been very tough to have people be so mean to him. Have your child complete half the wall, and then put it away for tomorrow's story.

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 even though sometimes people say mean things to us, that we know you love us. Help us to remember that, if we are following you, it doesn't matter what other people say. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Thursday - Day 60

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened? What were the names of the people who didn't like Nehemiah building the wall? What did they do to try to stop Nehemiah?

Read:

Nehemiah 4:7-9, 4:19-21, 6:15-16

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

When saying mean things to Nehemiah didn't work, what did Sanballat and Tobiah decide to do to get Nehemiah to stop building the wall?

What did Nehemiah have the people of Israel do when Sanballat and Tobiah said they were going to attack the people and destroy the wall?

How many of the people were guarding the wall at one time?

How long did it take for them to finish building the wall?

What did Nehemiah's enemies realize when the wall was finished?

Activity:

Today the wall is under attack. Adult have your fingers be the bad guys, walking around looking for a place to attack the wall. Have our child set up "guards" to keep you out. The guards can be anything from toys to cereal. Just have your child place them around the city to keep you out. You march around and continue to fail to get in. When your child finishes their wall, then you say you give up and you realize God was with them to help build the wall. That now the temple is safe and you can celebrate and worship God!

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 protecting us when bad things come, just like you protected Nehemiah and his wall. We know you are always there for us and we can always talk to you in prayer. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Friday - Day 61

(Note: Today's story may be difficult for younger children to understand. However, if they can grasp it the verses are a good conclusion to the Old Testament.)

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

Read:

Please begin with: The people of Israel had rebuilt the temple and the walls around the city. Once they were finished last book of the Old Testament was written. These are the very last words in the Old Testament that predict the coming of someone very special. They show that Jesus will come and save us all!

Malachi 4:2-6

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Do you know who the Sun of Righteousness is who will come and heal the world?

What does God say people should obey?

Why should we obey the Bible today?

What does Malachi say that we will do when Jesus comes (4:2)?

Activity:

The end of the Old Testament tells us that one day Jesus will come and we will leap for joy just like calves let out to pasture. Many calves would be kept in all winter and when they were let out for the first time ever and they touched the grass, the calves would be so excited at their freedom that they would jump and run for joy. Go to YouTube and search, "Calves leaping for joy" and watch a couple of videos of calves jumping for joy. Then have your child jump for joy because we know Jesus came for us and will come for us again.

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 Jesus. Thank you that he came for us and now we can leap and sing for joy because we are free. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Saturday - Day 62

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

Activity:

Tell your child that there are many stories in the Old Testament that look forward to Jesus coming, but they are like puzzle pieces. Tell your child that you can't tell what the picture is with just one piece, but when you put all the pieces together you can see the whole picture. Just like when we put the Old Testament together we can see Jesus! Get a puzzle (or make a puzzle by making a drawing and cutting it into pieces) and put the puzzle together.

Read/Question:

Please begin with: Just like the puzzle we put together, today, we are going to look at some of the puzzle pieces that, when we put them together, help us see Jesus!

Micah 5:2

This verse tells us where Jesus was born. Do you know where Jesus was born?

Isaiah 7:14

This verse tells us that the Jesus will be born with a human mother and God as the father. Just like Jesus!

2 Samuel 7:12-13

This verse tells us that Jesus great grandfather will be David and that Jesus will be king forever! Guess who Jesus' great grandfather was?

Isaiah 53:12

This verse tells that Jesus will die for the sins of many. Do you know how Jesus died?

Psalms 16:10, 49:15

This verse tells that Jesus will not stay dead, that he would defeat death and come back for us! Do you know what we celebrate on Easter? (Jesus coming back!)

It's amazing how all the pieces fit together, just like a puzzle. When we put them all together we can see Jesus everywhere in the Old Testament!

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 Jesus. Thank you that you knew he was coming to save us from the very beginning. Thank you for showing us how much you love us and help us to love you too! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Sunday - Day 63

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."