

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 11

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.

Day 71 - An Angel Visits Zechariah

Read:

It has been 400 years since Malachi promised the coming of Jesus. Now, the time for Jesus to come is almost here. But first, we need to meet Zechariah.

Luke 1:5-7, 1:11-12, 1:18-24, 1:57-64

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Zechariah in the temple?

What good news did the angel tell Zechariah?

Did Zechariah believe the angel? Why not?

What did the angel do to Zechariah for not believing in God's word?

When the baby was born, what did Zechariah tell his family he wanted the name to be?

What happened when Zechariah said the baby's name was to be John?

Activity:

The angel made Zechariah unable to talk for over nine whole months! Today, have your child try to be silent for an extended period of time through something that normally takes communication such as a meal, a bath, or a game. If they need something they have to get you to understand without words. For more fun, switch roles and you be silent through that time and see if your child can understand what you want. Remind them what Zechariah had to go through as he waited for his son, John to be born.

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 allowing us to go to church, like Zechariah. We pray that we always remember to listen to your words when you give them to us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 71 - An Angel Visits Mary

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story on yesterday? What happened? Do you remember the name of Zechariah's wife?

Read:

Luke 1:26-43

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Mary?

What good news did the angel tell Mary?

Who did the angel tell Mary was also going to have a baby?

Where did Mary go after the angel came to visit her?

What did the baby in Elizabeth's belly do when Mary came to visit?

Activity:

In the last two days, an angel came to visit Zechariah and Mary to deliver good news, but both times it was a huge surprise. Go around the room with your family and share about times you've had big surprises in your life. (Example: Birthday party, present, surprise visitor, you were on a walk and saw something amazing, etc.)

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, sometimes we are surprised by the things that you do, but we know that nothing surprises you because you know everything! Thank you for always taking care of us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 73 - Jesus is Born

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 2:1-7

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where did Mary and Joseph have to go?

Do you remember someone else from our stories who lived in Bethlehem? (Ruth - Day 29, David - Day 32)

Where did Mary and Joseph put baby Jesus when he was born?

Why did they put him in a manger?

Do you know what day we celebrate Jesus birth every year?

Activity:

A manger is a feeding trough or bowl for animals. Think about the son of God being born and placed in an animals food bowl. If you have an animal who eats out of a bowl (so not a fish), take your child to that bowl. If you do not have an animal next time you are at a store where they have bowls or animals who might be eating out of bowls stop by that area of the store. Remind your child off the story of Jesus birth. Ask your child if they think it is clean or dirty? Ask them if they would want to put a baby in that bowl? Then remind them that's exactly where Jesus was placed when he was born all because he loves us!

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 Christmas and for sending Jesus to us. We pray that we always remember that the reason for Christmas is Jesus birth. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 74 - Angels Visit the Shepherds

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 8:8-20

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit the shepherds in their fields?

What were the shepherds doing when the angel came to visit them?

What did the angels tell the shepherds?

What did the shepherds do when the angels came and told them about Jesus birth?

Activity:

The Bible tells us that a vast host, a whole army of angels, came to the shepherds and praised God. While the Bible doesn't say that the angels sang, many people believe that they did.

Reread Luke 2:14 and help your child make it into a little song. Then sing the song throughout the day as a celebration of Jesus.

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, the shepherds praised you, the angels praised you, and we pray that we remember to praise you each and every single day. Thank you for being so amazing and loving us so much! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 75 - Wise Men Come To See Jesus

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

Read:

Matthew 2:1-2, 2:9-11

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where did the wise men come from?

What did they say they saw that caused them to come to find Jesus?

Why did King Herod say he wanted to see baby Jesus?

What did the wise men do when they found baby Jesus?

What three things did the wise men give to baby Jesus?

Activity:

Go out and look at the stars on the horizon (this is important because then you could walk towards the star, as oppose to if it is in the middle of the sky). Point out a particular star to your child. Explain to them that this is how the wise men were able to find Jesus. They saw a special star that God had put there, they followed that star, and it led them right to Jesus!

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 are like the wisemen and we can always remember to give you gifts. We pray that we not be selfish with what we have but always remember to give to you because you gave us the greatest gift of all. You gave us Jesus. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Day 76 - Jesus Goes to the Temple

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

Read:

Please begin with: Today is a special story. This is the only story in the Bible about Jesus being a child.

Luke 3:41-52

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How old was Jesus in this story?

Where did Jesus and Mary and Joseph go?

When Mary and Joseph went to look for Jesus, where did they find him?

What was Jesus doing?

Activity:

Play a game much like hide and seek. Have your child hide and then walk around saying, "Jesus, Jesus, where are you?" and when you get close your child can pop out and say, "Here I am!" Talk about the fact that Mary and Joseph didn't know where Jesus was and when children get lost it can be very upsetting. Take time to talk about a plan of what to do if they were lost.

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 so much that we can know that no matter where in the world we might be, you know exactly where we are. We pray that we can remember you are always there for us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 77 - A Day at Church

Note: Depending when you begin these devotionals and your frequency of reading them, each week's church day may not fall on the day your church worships. However, remember that whenever your day of church worship falls, this is an opportunity to have a wonderful conversation with your children about God.

Church:

Enjoy a day at church!

Questions:

What did you learn about in church today?

Do you have any questions about the story you learned in church?

What was your favorite story from this week?

What did you like so much about that 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, thank you for this week and everything we learned. Help us to keep it in our hearts and to always follow you. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.”