

## **FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 12**

These are built to allow each family the opportunity to have a 5-15 minute devotional that includes Scripture, Questions, Activities, and Prayer. 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](http://biblegateway.com) or on the Bible app on your phone.

### **Day 78 - Jesus Gets Baptized**

#### **Recap:**

Do you remember what happened in our story on Saturday? What happened? Do you remember the name of Zechariah and Elizabeth's son from last week?

#### **Read:**

*Please begin with: Last week we talked about Zechariah and Elizabeth having a son named John. As we begin today's story Jesus and John have both grown up and are now telling other people all about God.*

Mark 1:1-11

#### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

John was given a job by God. What was that job?

John was preparing everyone he talked to for someone. Who was John preparing them for?

What happened when John baptized Jesus and Jesus came up out of the water?

What did the voice of God say about Jesus?

#### **Activity:**

In today's story Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Christians around the world still baptize people today. Take time in the next day or so to do a water based activity as playing in the sprinklers, taking a shower or bath, or going swimming. While you're doing those things talk to your child about the difference between getting wet and being baptized. Baptism is something a person does when they have asked Christ to be the leader of their life. It symbolizes the washing away of our sins, so we are clean when we come out of the water. Baptism also symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is important to Christians both because Jesus was baptized but also because Jesus told us that we are suppose to baptize those who follow him (Matthew 28:19-20).

#### **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 baptism. We are thankful that, just like soap cleans away dirt, when we come to you, you will clean away all of our sins. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 79 - Jesus Gets Tempted**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

*Please begin with: Right after John baptized Jesus, Jesus left for the desert to go far far away from everyone else to take time to pray.*

Luke 4:1-13

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where did Jesus go?

How long was Jesus out in the wilderness?

Who came to tempt Jesus?

Jesus hadn't eaten anything for 40 whole days, so what was the first thing the devil tried to tempt Jesus with?

What did Jesus tell the devil?

### **Activity:**

Everyone has been tempted at some time or another. To be tempted is to want to have something that you know is wrong or not helpful to you. Ask your child if they have ever been tempted to do something wrong. If so, what was it? Tell them that they are not alone, it is hard for most people when they are tempted. Today, act out the temptation of Jesus. Have your child be Jesus and you be the devil. Tempt your child with something like a cookie or candy, and have them resist, just like Jesus did. Then tell them that with Jesus by our side, we can avoid the temptations of life. You can later give them the cookie, just as when Jesus finished his time of being tempted he was able to go and eat bread 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 that you are always there for us. Please do not allow us to fall into temptation but to always come to you when we are tempted to do bad. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 80 - Jesus Does His First Miracle**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

John 2:1-12

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What type of party were Jesus, Mary, and the disciples at?

What problem came up at the party?

What did Jesus have the servants do?

What happened when the servants filled the jars with water?

### **Activity:**

Away from your child gather two glasses (preferably one that is clear). In one glass put some purple food dye (a quarter sized amount will probably do it). In the second glass (the clear one if you have one) pour some hot water. Then remind your child of the story of turning water into wine. When you get to the part of Jesus calling for the empty jug stick your hand into the cup with the dye. Don't touch the dye but put it in far enough to show your child the cup is "empty". Then dip your hand into the cup of water to show it is real water. For the climax, pour the water into the glass with the dye. Then, take your empty water cup, and pour the new "wine" back into the cup. Explain that this was just a trick, but Jesus was God so he could do it in real life and not only could Jesus turn water into wine, he made the best wine ever!

### **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 birthdays and holidays and weddings. It is fun to celebrate, but help us always to remember to celebrate you more than anything else in the whole wide world. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 81 - Nicodemus Meets Jesus**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

John 3:1-16

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Jesus?

What was Nicodemus' job?

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that Nicodemus needed to have happen?

Did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was talking about?

### **Activity:**

*Read John 3:16 again.* This is the most famous verse in the entire Bible. Try to memorize it with your child. If you can, add verse 17 also. Perhaps make it into a song, or give a reward for completing it, or have some fun way to encourage your child to remember this verse.

### **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, you loved this whole world so much that you sent Jesus down to us. Thank you that we can know that anyone who wants to can believe in you and they will have eternal life. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.”

## **Day 82 - Jesus Helps Peter Catch Fish**

### **Recap:**

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

### **Read:**

Luke 5:1-11

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What was Jesus doing on the Sea of Galilee?

What did Jesus tell Simon Peter to do?

What did Simon Peter say when Jesus told him to throw his nets in?

What happened when Simon Peter obeyed Jesus?

How did Simon Peter, James, and John behave when they saw how many fish there were?

What did Jesus tell them they would fish for now?

What did Simon Peter, James, and John do when they got back to land?

### **Activity:**

Jesus told Simon Peter, James, and John that they were going to fish for men. This means that, if they followed Jesus, they would go out and try to help people know who Jesus was. Fishing for men is something very silly to think about. Grab a stick and put a string on it to turn into a fishing rod (if you use a real fishing rod please **REMEMBER TO TAKE THE HOOK OFF**), if you want, tie a bit of food on as bait. Then play "fishing for men" with them. Cast your rod and let your child swim around, and bite on to the string or bait, then pull them in and have them act like a fish. If you want, reverse rolls and let them fish for men too.

### **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, you were able to give Peter, James, and John so many fish that their nets were about to break all because they obeyed you. Help us to obey and always remember to do whatever you tell us too. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 83 - Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man**

### **Recap:**

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

### **Read:**

Mark 2:1-12

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why couldn't the four men carrying their friend get to Jesus through the front door?

What did the four men decide to do to get their friend to Jesus?

What did Jesus tell the paralyzed man first?

The Pharisees were upset because no one can forgive sins but God. Of course we know that Jesus is God! What did Jesus do to prove to the Pharisees that he is God?

What the paralyzed man do when Jesus healed him?

### **Activity:**

Being paralyzed is very hard, it means that you can't move parts of your body. Today, choose your child's arms or legs and have them be paralyzed for a set of time where it would be useful to have those limbs. So have dinner with their arms paralyzed or have them try to get to bed with their legs being paralyzed. Someone will have to help them to do nearly everything. Explain to them this is how the man in the story was before Jesus healed him. After a time of being paralyzed they will easily be able to understand why the paralyzed man was so happy he jumped up and began to run around.

### **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, you are amazing. You were able to change that paralyzed man's life and you are able to change our lives too. Thank you for fact that you are willing to heal us of our sins.

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.”