

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 13

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 or on the Bible app on your phone.

Day 85 - Jesus has Dinner with Matthew

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 9:9-13

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

When Jesus came to Matthew, what was Matthew doing?

What did Jesus say to Matthew?

What did Matthew do?

How did the Pharisees feel about Jesus going to dinner with Matthew?

Who did Jesus say he came to save?

Activity:

Matthew was a tax collector and people did not like tax collectors. Choose an object that has dozens of pieces in it such as a bag of small candies. Remind them of the story of Matthew and tell your child you're giving them candy to have, but that you are the tax collector. Divide the pieces of candy equally amongst you and your children. Before they are allowed to eat any, tell them that you are the tax collector and you need to implement a Mommy/Daddy tax. Take a portion of their candy for yourself. Then remind them you are the tax collector and the house they live in is expensive, so you want to give them a house tax. Take another portion of candy. Continue on with taxes until you have nearly all the candy and they only have a piece or two. Then say that looks about right and they are welcome to have what's left. Now ask your child whether they like tax collectors. This will explain why the Pharisees and other people didn't like Matthew, because he was a tax collector and he took everything they had. But, fortunately, Jesus loves everyone and even let Matthew become one of his disciples!

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 are so glad that you love everybody, even when we mess up. Thank you that we can always be like Matthew and choose to follow you and be your disciples. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 86 - The 12 Disciples and the Mustard Seed

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Today we'll be talking about the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God being in charge over everything forever just like a king is in charge over the land, but the Kingdom of God is also God being in charge of our hearts and the hearts of everyone who follows Jesus, just like a king is in charge of his people. Today we'll see 12 men follow Jesus and then Jesus will tell them, and us, more about the Kingdom of God.

Luke 6:12-16, Matthew 13:31-32

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Jesus do before he picked the disciples?

How many disciples did he pick?

Jesus spends much of his time teaching the disciples about the Kingdom of...what?

Jesus told the disciples that the Kingdom of God was like what type of seed?

What did Jesus say would happen to a mustard seed?

Activity:

Take time to get a mustard seed (either you or someone you know probably has one in their pantry spice rack). Show your child how small a mustard seed is. Then go outside and look at how big a tree is. Talk about how that tiny seed is just like the kingdom of God, it shows that it might start small, but with love, the Kingdom and our love for God can grow and flourish into a giant tree.

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 the Kingdom of God. It is so good to know that when you plant your seed in our hearts that, if we follow you, it will grow and grow and grow into a big, beautiful, tree. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 87 - The Treasure of God

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened? Do you remember what the Kingdom of God is?

Read:

Matthew 13:44

Questions:

In the second story, what valuable thing did Jesus say the Kingdom of God was like? What did the man do to get the Kingdom of God?

Read:

Matthew 13:45-46

Questions:

In the third story, what valuable thing did Jesus say the Kingdom of God was like? What did the man do to get the Kingdom of God? Why do you think the man sold everything he had?

Activity:

Hide a “treasure” somewhere in your house. Have your child imagine they are an explorer looking for the famed treasure. If need be, help them by giving them, “hotter” or, “colder” hints. Once the treasure is found remind them that no matter how valuable that treasure is, God’s love is way more valuable.

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 know that your love is the most valuable thing in the whole wide world. Help us to never forget how much you love us and help us to be willing to give up everything we have to love you back. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Day 88 - Don't Worry

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday? What happened? Do you remember what the Kingdom of God is?

Read:

Matthew 6:25-33

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What does Jesus tell us not to do?

What animal does Jesus tell us has enough food to eat?

What plant does Jesus tell us is prettier than any piece of clothing ever?

What does Jesus tell us that we should be doing instead of worrying?

What does Jesus tell us that God will give us if we seek the Kingdom of God above everything else?

Activity:

Today, our activity will be more serious one, as we discuss the topic of worry. Ask your child, "What is something that you worry about?" Show your child that you care about the things they worry about by hearing them out, repeating it back to them, and offering to work with them to help them come up with a solution together. If the worry is a temporary worry, something that will resolve itself in a short amount of time, help them to understand perspective. That the problem may be worrying now, but no matter what, things will be OK in the long run. If it is a larger worry such as war, famine, etc. ask your child where they are getting that information, as most young children don't seek out this type of information on their own. Acknowledge the seriousness of the issue they are worried about and tell them that many people are working to solve the problem and, depending on the issue, maybe one day they can also help solve the problem. Ultimately, tell them that God has everything under his control. Go outside and show your child nature, or the stars, or animals and remind them that God created all of that and God keeps it all going. If God can do that, he can take care of any of our worries. (You might consider removing the cause of worry from the child's life to minimize their concerns until they are older and more able to process larger level situations.) Finally, thank your child for talking to you about worry and offer to pray with them about the worry they are having.

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 know that we are worried about insert worry, but we know that you created everything, you control everything, and that we can come to you with our worry. Help us to always bring our worries to you and know that you can take care of them. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 89 - The Soldier's Faith

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

Read:

Luke 7:1-10

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why was the Roman officer worried?

What happened before Jesus arrived to the Roman officer's house?

What did the Roman officer say to Jesus?

How did Jesus feel when he heard this?

What did Jesus say to the crowd when he heard this?

What happened when the Roman officer returned home?

Activity:

Today, you'll make a roman helmet. Begin by searching the internet for a picture of a Roman helmet to get an idea of what you're going for. Get an empty gallon of milk (if you don't drink milk a friend probably does). With your child cut the spout and the handle portion off. This should make it similar to face shaped and approximately small child sized. If you would like to decorate it feel free to use things such as markers, glue, feathers, tin foil, glitter, and whatever else your child might enjoy to customize their helmet. Then have your child put on the helmet and play the part of the Roman officer in the story. Remind them it was because of the Roman officers great faith in God that his servant was healed.

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 can do some many great miracles. We thank you that we can have faith in you no matter what is happening in our lives. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 90 - Jesus Raises a Boy from the Dead

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our story yesterday?

Read:

Luke 7:11-17

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

When Jesus and his disciples came to the village of Nain, what did they see?

Who had died?

What did Jesus tell the widow?

What did Jesus do to the coffin?

What happened when Jesus touched the coffin and said, "Get up!"?

What did people think about Jesus after he raised the boy from the dead?

Activity:

Today's activity is a dance party. While the Bible doesn't say that there was dancing in this story, in Jesus' time, dancing was a common way to celebrate something good that happened. The people of Jesus' time danced at weddings, they danced at birthday parties, and they even danced to worship God. So it is extremely likely that people danced and shouted praises to celebrate Jesus bringing the widow's son back to life. Turn on some fun music and dance and shout to celebrate how great Jesus is. He brought a widow's son back to life and he gives us eternal life!

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, it is so amazing to think you can bring people back from the dead! We are so glad that one day you will bring us home to be with you forever. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 91 - 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.”