

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 15

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 99 - The Wise and Foolish Builder

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 7:24-29

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Did Jesus say that people who listen to him are like a smart builder or a foolish builder?

What does a smart builder build on?

What happens to a house build on rock when it rains?

Did Jesus say that people who don't listen to him are like a smart builder or a foolish builder?

What does a foolish builder build on?

What happens to a house build on sand when it rains?

Activity:

Today, have your child be a wise and foolish builder. Remind them of the story of the wise and foolish builder. Have them build two houses; one house out of a flimsy object, such as cards or leaves, and one out of a firm object, such as building blocks or small rocks. Then come along as the storm, where you and your child will stomp and blow on the houses. The flimsy house should fall apart with some good stomping or blowing. The firm house should stay standing with stomping and blowing if well built.

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 our lives can be strong and solid, just like the firm house, if we build our lives following you. Please help us to always be faithful to your word, the Bible. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 100 - Jesus Walks on Water

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 14:22-33

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the disciples think they saw on the water?

What did they really see on the water?

What did Jesus tell them?

What did Peter ask to do?

What happened when Peter got out on the water?

Why did Peter start to sink?

What did the disciples say about Jesus when he got into the boat?

Activity:

The Bible says that Peter saw the wind and, when he took his eyes off of Jesus, he became afraid. Today we'll play a game to keep our eyes on God. Find something to represent Jesus such as a person in your family, a stuffed animal, or a picture of Jesus. Have your child be Peter getting out of the boat and walking across the room to Jesus. Then your job is to distract your child. Yell, wave your arms, blow in their ear, toss pieces of paper at them, whatever you can to get them to take their eyes off of God. When they look away remind them that they are sinking and they need to keep their eyes on Jesus. When they get there celebrate with them and remind them that, as long as they keep their eyes on God, everything will be okay.

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, don't ever let us become distracted, but help us to keep our eyes on 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 101 - The Lost Sheep

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 15:1-7

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How many sheep does the shepherd have?

How many sheep get lost?

What does the shepherd do when he finds out that one of his sheep is lost?

What does the shepherd do when he finds the lost sheep?

What does Jesus say causes a celebration in heaven (15:7)?

Activity:

You and your child take turns being the lost sheep. The sheep hides somewhere in the house and "baahs" as the shepherd seeks to find the lost sheep. The shepherd can call out reassuring things to the sheep such as, "don't worry, I'm on my way" and, "I'm coming to find you and I'll take care of you." Then, when the sheep is found have a celebration and remind your child that heaven celebrates every time one person comes to know and love 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 are so happy to know that you would leave the other sheep to come find us, just like you left heaven to come and save us. Thank you that you love every single person in this whole wide world. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 102 - The Lost Son

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Who was lost in that story?

Read:

Please begin with: Yesterday Jesus told a story about a lost sheep, today Jesus will tell us another story, this one about a lost son.

Luke 15:11-24, 15:32

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the younger son want from his father?

What did the younger son do with all the money he was given?

What happened when the younger son ran out of money?

What did the younger son take as a job to be able to eat?

Where did the younger son finally decide to go?

How did the father do when the younger son finally came back?

Why did the father celebrate that day?

Activity:

The younger son became so hungry that the Bible tells us even the food pigs eat began to look good to him. For your next meal that you have some scraps left (for example: the left over rinds from fruits and vegetables, bones from meats, or just the little bits of food left uneaten after dinner) and collect all of the scraps. Then give them to your child to eat. Remind the child about how hungry the younger son in the story became that even those gross scraps began to look good to him. But when the younger son came home the father loved him so much the younger son didn't have to eat scraps, instead the younger son had a big dinner party thrown in his honor!

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 forget how much you have given us and we run away from you. Help us to always remember that we can always come back to you and you will welcome us home with open arms and tell us how much you love us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 103 - The Rich Ruler

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 18:18-30

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the rich man ask Jesus?

What did Jesus say the rich man needed to do first?

Did the rich man say he had done that?

What did Jesus ask the rich man to do next?

Did the rich man want to do that? Why not?

What did Jesus say about people who give up things to follow Jesus?

Activity:

In this story Jesus says it is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. To help your child understand how difficult this is, get a needle (or something else with a tiny hole, such as a ring, a paper clip, or a clothes pin). Then, together, try to fit something large through it (such as a couch, a car, or door). Keep working at it from different angles. When your child learns the task is impossible remind them what Jesus said; that with God, everything is possible. Then remind them of some of the stories you've already read. Jesus walked on water, brought a boy back to life, fed 5000 people with just a few pieces of bread and fish, and calmed a storm. Jesus is God and with God all things are possible.

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 sometimes can't do things, but we also know that with you, anything is possible. Thank you for being the all powerful God over everything! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 104 - Jesus and the 10 Lepers

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 17:11-19

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How many men did Jesus see who had leprosy?

What did the 10 men who had leprosy ask Jesus for?

What did Jesus tell the 10 men with leprosy to do?

How many of the 10 men with leprosy came back to thank Jesus?

Activity:

Even though Jesus healed 10 men of their painful leprosy, only one took the time to come back and thank Jesus for all that he had done for them. Often we also forget to thank Jesus for everything he has done for us. Have your child take time throughout the day to see things that God has blessed them with. Occasionally help them by pointing out extra things they might have missed. Over the entire day this will help your child see how much they have to be thankful to God for.

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, much like the 10 lepers in today's story, we have so much to be thankful for because you have blessed us so very much, but the thing we are most thankful for is that you love us and you sent Jesus down to save us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Day 105 - 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.”