

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 16

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 106 - Jesus Loves Kids

Recap:

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

Read:

Mark 10:13-16

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who did the parents bring to see Jesus?

What did the disciples do when they saw parents bringing their kids to Jesus?

What did Jesus tell the disciples?

What did Jesus do with the children?

Activity:

One of the most famous kids songs of all time is the song, "Jesus Loves The Little Children." Teach your child this song (if you don't know it, feel free to look up the song) and remind them of today's story and how much Jesus love all the children in the entire world.

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 thankful that you love everybody, especially children. Help us to always remember how much you love us and that you will always be here for us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 107- Jesus Raises Lazarus

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Do you remember the story from a couple of weeks ago where a woman washed Jesus' feet with her hair? Well her name is Mary and today we'll meet her brother Lazarus.

John 11:1-4, 11:14-19, 11:32-44

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What message did Mary and Martha send to Jesus?

Who was going to receive glory from Lazarus death?

How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus showed up?

What did Jesus say to God as his prayer?

What did Jesus say to Lazarus?

What did Lazarus do?

Activity:

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus tells us that when Lazarus came out, he was wrapped up in clothes used for the dead. Even his face was wrapped up. Today, wrap your child up in toilet paper. Wrap it around them so their whole body and face is covered, except for their mouth. Then lay them down on their bed or on the floor. Play the part of Jesus and say, "Lazarus, I am Jesus and I say, you are alive! Come out of that grave Lazarus!" and let your child tear their way out of the toilet paper wrapping and celebrate together.

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 so powerful, you even have control over death. Thank you that, if we believe in Jesus and follow you, you will give us eternal life. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 108 - Jesus Meets Zacchaeus

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 19:1-10

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Zacchaeus do as his job?

Do you remember someone else we talked about a few weeks ago who also was a tax collector? (Matthew)

Why couldn't Zacchaeus see over the crowds?

What did Zacchaeus decide to do so he could see Jesus?

What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus?

What did Zacchaeus say he would do with all of his money?

Activity:

Zacchaeus couldn't see over the crowd because he was so short, so he decided to climb up a sycamore tree so he could see. This is a story your child will find a lot of common ground with because they can't see over many things because they're not fully grown. Find things in your house or around your town that might be tough for them to see over because they're short such as a kitchen counter, a clothes rack, or a fence. Then talk about the story of Zacchaeus and then be the tree. Lift them up so they can see over that obstacle. Remind them that climbing up the sycamore tree was how Zacchaeus got to meet 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 know that seeing Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life, just like knowing Jesus changes our lives today. Help us to be like Zacchaeus and be willing to give up everything we have to follow you. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 109 - Everyone Has a Party for Jesus

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 21:1-11

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What type of animal did Jesus have the disciples get for him to ride?

What did people throw on the road in front of Jesus' donkey?

What did people cut and wave for Jesus as he rode his donkey?

What did the people shout to Jesus as he rode his donkey?

Activity:

In the big party that the people had for Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, everyone took off their coats, waved palm branches, shouted, and sang to celebrate Jesus coming to town. This week, when someone comes home from being out (whether it's from school, or work, or the grocery store), celebrate their return. Get a couple of branches from a tree, spread a couple of pieces of clothes out on the floor, wave your tree branches, and shout, "Welcome home! Welcome home! We are so happy to see you!" Then think about how it would feel to have hundreds, or thousands, of people shouting that to Jesus. It must have been quite the party!

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 don't only celebrate you on Christmas and Easter, but that we celebrate how special you are to us every single day. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 110 - Jesus Sees Selfish and Generous People

Recap:

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

Read:

Mark 11:15-18, 12:41-44

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Jesus do when he entered the Temple?

Why did Jesus knock over the tables and drive out all of the people buying and selling animals?

What did the priests, the teachers, and the Pharisees at the Temple want to do to Jesus because of Jesus' actions?

As Jesus sat and watched the people putting money into the box, how much did the poor widow drop into the box?

What did Jesus say about that poor widow's two pennies (lepta, coins, mites, or farthings, depending on your translation) she put in the box?

Activity:

Jesus drove people out of the temple who were trying to make money off the church, but Jesus celebrated the widow who gave everything she had to the church. One group was being selfish and one lady was being generous. Giving generously is such an important part of being a Christian, whether it is giving money, or serving others, or loving people. Talk about the widow's coins and help your child find a way to give to the church this week. It could be with money, or with time and helping to serve, or just by writing encouraging notes to the leaders of the church. This will teach them not to be selfish, but generous with what God has given them.

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 so much for letting us have so many good things in our lives. We pray that we can remember not to be selfish with what we have, but to be open and giving with everything you have given to us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 111 - The Last Supper

Recap:

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

Read:

John 13:1-10, Matthew 26:26-30

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What part of the disciples' bodies did Jesus wash?

How did Peter react to Jesus wanting to wash Peter's feet?

Then, when they sat down for dinner, what did Jesus do with the bread that he had?

What did Jesus do with the cup of wine that he had?

What did Jesus and the disciples do after that had their last supper together?

Where did and the disciples go after they had their last supper together?

Activity:

This was a very special dinner for Jesus and the disciples. Choose a meal this week to make a special meal much like Jesus and the disciples had together. At the start of the meal, have your family all go and wash their hands together and talk about Jesus washing the disciples feet. Then sit down for dinner to share your dinner together as you talk about the bread and the cup Jesus shared. Spend time talking about what you like about the meal, each other, and God. After you are finished with your meal, sing a song of praise together (such as, "Jesus Loves Me") and then go out on a walk to a place where you can stop and take time to pray again as a family, just like Jesus did with his disciples in the Mount of Olives (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, it is so amazing to see Jesus, the son of God, washing the disciples feet and serving them a meal. Thank you for sending Jesus down from heaven and to love us and take care of us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 112 - 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.”