

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 17

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 113 - Jesus is Arrested

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 26:36-50

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who did Jesus take with him to pray?

What did Peter, James, and John do when Jesus started to pray?

Who came to arrest Jesus?

What did Judas do to Jesus to show the crowd which one Jesus was?

What did the crowd do with Jesus?

Activity:

One of the things that Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane was pray to God. Jesus asked God to take away what was to come, but when God said no, Jesus was willing to do what God says. Play a game of, "Mother/Father May I" with the goal of having your child make their way to you. This will show them some of the path that Jesus had to go through, but that we have to go through to follow God's direction in our lives.

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 Jesus was willing to do whatever he needed to do to follow you. We pray that we can always be willing to follow you wherever you lead us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 114 - Peter Denies Jesus

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 24:54-62

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who was Peter following?

Where did Peter follow Jesus to?

What did Peter say when people asked if he knew Jesus?

How many times did Peter say that he did not know Jesus?

What animal crowed when Peter said he did not know Jesus for the third time?

What did Peter do when he realized he had hurt Jesus by saying he didn't know Jesus?

Activity:

When Peter denies Jesus it creates what is often called a "domino effect" in his life. A "domino effect" is what happens when one choice makes another choice happen, which makes another choice happen. This domino effect can become quite large in our lives. For Peter, the first time he denies makes it easier the second time. The second time Peter denies Jesus makes it easier the third time. Then, when the rooster crows, the next domino is that Peter realizes he was wrong and leaves Jesus and cries. Today, show your child a practical version of the domino effect. With your child set up some dominoes, or a domino equivalent. Set up as many as you want and feel free to get creative with it. Remind your child of Peter's decision and how that decision set off some very bad dominos in Peter's life. Then knock the dominoes over and watch the effect. Then reset up your dominoes and tell your child that even if they follow God and make good decisions, then it can be a domino effect in a good way. Knock the dominoes over and watch that one good choice turn into many good things.

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 fact that, even when we make bad choices, we can still come back to you and you will forgive us. Help us to always return to you when we do bad things. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 115 - Jesus Meets Pilate

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Jesus was arrested and now was standing trial before Pilate, the leader of the town.

Luke 23:1-5, 23:13-24

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What was the person's name that the Pharisees took Jesus to for his trial?

Did Pilate decide that Jesus was guilty or innocent?

What did the crowd say when Pilate said Jesus was innocent?

Who did the crowd want Pilate to release instead of Jesus?

What did Pilate do with Barabbas?

What did Pilate do with Jesus?

Activity:

Pilate decided to put Jesus to death, but even Pilate said that Jesus didn't do anything wrong. It is very hard to get into trouble or be punished for something when you didn't do anything wrong. Today, you do something in front of your child (example: spill a little water, drop a piece of food on the floor, or don't put away something) and then accuse them of doing it. This could be very sensitive, so do vary your harshness based on the child. However, have them become a little upset for being accused of a crime they didn't commit. Then tell them this is how Jesus would have felt, because Jesus was accused by the Pharisees and punished by Pilate for something he didn't do. In fact, Jesus was punished for something that WE did instead. Because we sinned and didn't follow God, Jesus had to go to the cross so we could be with Him eternally.

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 taking the punishment for us. We know that you love us so much because, even when we didn't follow you or listen to you, you still sent your son Jesus to come to this earth and to save us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 116 - Jesus Dies for Us

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? What did Pilate and the crowd decide to do with Jesus?

Read:

Luke 23:32-53

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did they nail Jesus to?

There were two criminals on crosses beside Jesus. What did the two criminals say to Jesus?

What did Jesus say to the criminal who asked to follow Jesus?

What happened to the sun when Jesus was dying?

What happened to the curtain in the Temple when Jesus was dying?

What did the Roman officer say about Jesus when he saw Jesus die?

Where did they put Jesus body after he had died?

Activity:

Today's story was a sad story, but it is also one that we should always work to remember every time we see a cross. Spend time today helping your child make a cross. This could be with paper, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, tree branches, or anything object of your choosing. Place that cross in a prominent spot and, over the next few days, every time anyone in your family sees the cross have them say, "Thank you Jesus for coming and dying on the cross for me."

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 it must have been tough to have Jesus come and die for us, but we are so thankful for the cross and that Jesus gave his life so that we could be with you forever. Help us to remember how much you love us and to always be thankful for Jesus sacrifice. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 117 - Jesus is Back!

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Jesus died and was put in the tomb on Friday. Now it is Sunday morning when Mary goes to see Jesus' tomb.

John 20:1-2, 20:11-18

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Mary find when she came to Jesus' tomb?

Who did Mary go and tell about Jesus' tomb being empty?

Why was Mary crying about Jesus' tomb being empty?

When Mary was getting ready to leave, who did she see standing there?

Who did Mary think Jesus was?

What things did Mary do when she realized it was Jesus?

Activity:

Make a cushion tomb or a chair tomb. If it is cushion tomb make three of them into an arc and a fourth to block the tomb. If it is a chair tomb, get two chairs and drape the blanket over them to make a little tomb like area and is closed off. Take turns having someone come up and be Mary, who is very sad. Have the other person be Jesus. Jesus pops out of the tomb and says, "Don't be sad Mary, I'm alive!" Then talk with your child about the story of Easter and how Jesus defeated death so that we could be with him forever!

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 defeating death and coming back for us. We can always know that your tomb is empty and you are alive! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 118 - The Men Going to Emmaus

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 26:36-50

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where were the two men walking to?

Who came up to the two men and started talking to them?

What did Jesus talk about with the two men?

When the two men got to the Emmaus, what did the two men ask Jesus to do?

What happened when Jesus took the bread and gave it to them?

Who did the two men go see after they'd seen Jesus?

Activity:

Today your child will be like the men walking to Emmaus. The two men were walking but they couldn't see Jesus. It's almost like they were blind. Eventually they understood Jesus was with them and they could see Jesus for who he really was. Parents you'll stand on one side of the room and be Jesus. Have your child close their eyes and spin around 5 times. Then, as Jesus, you'll call out to your child repeatedly and help your child find their way back to you! Then, after you've played it a couple of times, you can switch and you can be the men from Emmaus and let your child be Jesus. This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss prayer, listening to God, and remembering that God is with 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 that even though we can not always see you in person, we can always know that you are there with us, no matter what happens. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 119 - 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.”