

## **FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 18**

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 120 - Doubting Thomas**

#### **Recap:**

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

#### **Read:**

John 20:19-31

#### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why were they hiding in a room behind locked doors?

Who wasn't with the disciples when Jesus appeared?

What did Thomas say when the other disciples told them they had seen Jesus?

When Jesus appeared to Thomas, what did Jesus tell Thomas to do?

Thomas believed in Jesus because Thomas saw him, but what did Jesus say about those who don't get to see him?

#### **Activity:**

Thomas wouldn't believe in Jesus until he saw Jesus with his own eyes, but there are many things that we can believe in even when we can't see them. Take an object you can hide in your hand and hold it up to your child. Ask them if they believe that the object is there. Then, in front of your child, take that object and close it within your hands so they can not see it. Ask your child if they still think the object is there. When they say yes ask them, "How do you know? You can't see it." Finally, hide your hands from them for a few seconds so they can not see whether you dropped the object or not. Then bring your hands back up and ask your child if they still think the object is there. Promise them that the object is there. Then show them the object again in your hands. Explain to your child that while you might have lied we know that, no matter what we see or don't see, we can ALWAYS trust God. He never lies and he always keeps his promises. If God says he is with us we can know 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 we can know you never lie, you always keep your promises, and that we can trust you with our whole loves because you love us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 121 - Jesus Forgives Peter**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

*Please Note: If you would like to reread the story of Peter Denying Jesus in Luke 24:54-62, it may help your child understand this story better.*

John 21:1-19

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Do you remember what happened last time Peter was near Jesus at Jesus' trial?

Do you remember how many times Peter denied Jesus?

In today's story what does Jesus ask Peter?

What does Peter say to Jesus?

What does Jesus want Peter to do?

How many times does Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love me?" and, "Feed my sheep."?

What did Jesus say to Peter at the end of their talk?

### **Activity:**

Today, we saw Jesus forgive Peter. Forgiveness is hard to do sometimes. For today's activity, take get piece of paper and pen and have your child write down someone who has hurt them. Maybe they said something mean. Maybe they did something mean. Adults, help your child think of the name of that person. Then write that name down. Then you are going to pray with your child over that name. Maybe just today, maybe every day for a week, maybe every day for a month. Pray together that your child can forgive that person for what they did, just like Jesus for gave Peter. Please remind your child that forgiveness isn't saying what that person did was right, it is saying that they don't owe you anything. Then, when your child feels like they have forgiven that person, have your child take that paper with that name on it and tear it up. Tear it up into little tiny pieces and throw it into the air or throw it into the garbage. That way you can remember you threw away that anger at that person. That person has been forgiven. This is a great lesson to remember and repeat when your child needs to remember to forgive someone.

### **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 we can learn to forgive others who have hurt us just like you forgive us. We are sorry for hurting you when we don't follow you and help us to always remember to listen to you and do what you say. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 122 - Jesus Goes Home**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

Acts 1:3-11

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How long was Jesus with the disciples after the crucifixion?

What does Jesus tell the disciples to go and do?

Where does Jesus tell the disciples to go and tell people about him?

What does Jesus do after he tells the disciples to go and tell people about him everywhere?

Who appears to the disciples after Jesus goes home to heaven?

What do the two angels tell the disciples?

### **Activity:**

For this activity you will need a single person tea bag, a pair of scissors, and a lighter. (Lipton brand teabags do not work well.) What you will need to do is evenly cut the top off of the tea bag. Then open the bag and dump the tea out. Once the tea bag is empty make it into a long, thin cylinder. Place the cylinder standing up on a flat surface, so it won't fall over. Then will review the story of Jesus ascending to heaven. When you get to the point of Jesus going to heaven, light the top of the tea bag. As the fire burns to the bottom of the tea bag the bag will lift off into heaven and disappear, just like Jesus did!

### **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 you have told us that we are to share your name everywhere, in our town, to our friends, and even all around the world. Help us to be bold and willing to always tell people about how amazing you are and how much we love you. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 123 - The Very First Church**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

Acts 2:1-14, 2:22-24, 2:37-47

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What are three things that happened to the disciples while they were meeting together?

After the disciples had the windstorm, the fire, and the speaking in different languages happen to them, what did the people in Jerusalem think of the disciples?

What did Peter tell the people in Jerusalem?

How many people were baptized and added to the church that day?

What types of things did the people in the church start doing together?

### **Activity:**

Today's story was about the day the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. Have your child act out the different pieces of that time. First, have them pray (you can use the prayer below if you want to). Second, create a wind by turning on a fan, blowing on them, or creating a fan. Third, you'll want to make a child friendly flame. You'll need some either colored paper or white paper and markers. Have your child draw a flame and cut it out. Once the wind is gone, hold the fire above your child's head. Finally, have them say a couple of words in a foreign language. Something like, "Bonjour" or "Hola". That way your child can remember the day that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, and 3000 people came to follow Christ.

### **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 your son, Jesus, and thank you for the Holy Spirit. It is so good to know that you are with us no matter where we go and no matter what we do. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 124 - Peter and John Heal a Crippled Man**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

Acts 3:1-11, 4:1-4, 4:18-22

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What type of person did Peter and John meet outside the temple?

What did the crippled man ask for?

What did Peter do for the crippled man instead?

What did the Pharisees do with Peter and John when they saw people coming to know Jesus?

What did the Pharisees ask Peter and John to stop doing?

What did Peter and John say to the Pharisees when they were asked to stop talking about Jesus?

### **Activity:**

In Peter and John's day, not being able to use your legs was very difficult. They didn't have wheelchairs or any type of help. So a crippled person had to be carried or drag themselves around. Have your child spend some time today trying to get around without using their legs. They are only allowed to drag themselves or have someone carry them. This will help your child understand how excited the crippled man would be after Peter and John healed him.

### **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 amazing to learn about how, through you, Peter and John were able to heal a crippled man. Thank you that you also heal our hearts when we come to you and ask for forgiveness. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

## **Day 125 - Philip and the Ethiopian**

### **Recap:**

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

### **Read:**

Acts 8:26-40

### **Questions:**

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to Philip?

What did the angel tell Philip to do?

Who did Philip meet on his trip?

What was the Ethiopian studying?

Did the Ethiopian understand what he was reading?

What did the Ethiopian want to do after Philip had told him about Jesus?

What happened to Philip after the Ethiopian was baptized?

### **Activity:**

In our story today the Ethiopian eunuch was reading a scroll that contained verses from the book of Isaiah. So for today's activity you'll want to look up Isaiah 53:7-8. Then either you or your child, depending on if they can write, will write down Isaiah 53:7-8 on that piece of paper. It's a pretty complex verse for kids, but it very clearly is a verse about Jesus and his crucifixion. Once the verses down you'll roll up the scroll and tie it with a ribbon, a string, or a rubber band. After this is done you can hand the scroll to your child and ask them to read it. Whether they can read or not is not really the point as much as asking them what Philip asked the Ethiopian, "Do you understand what these words mean?" They'll probably say no and once they do you can sing, "Jesus Loves Me". The second verse of the song is,

Jesus loves me! He who died  
Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let His little child come in.

That's exactly what Philip told the Ethiopian eunuch the day the Ethiopian eunuch came to know Jesus as his savior.

### **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 Bible. We know that you gave us the Bible so that we could know more about you and 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 126 - 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.”