

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 19

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 127 - Saul Meets Jesus

Recap:

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

Read:

Acts 9:1-18

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why did Saul want to go to Damascus?

As Saul was on the road to Damascus, what happened to him?

What did Jesus say to Saul?

What was wrong with Saul after he had spoken to Jesus?

What did God tell Ananias to do?

What two things happened to Saul when he met with Ananias?

Activity:

In our story a couple of weeks ago the men walking to Emmaus were blind to seeing Jesus even when he was in front of them. In our story today, Saul became blind after he saw Jesus, so his friends had to help him get to Damascus. For today's activity we will be like Saul. What you'll do is you'll set up some obstacles to go through the house or room. Then your child will be Saul and you (Saul's friend) will help guide Saul to Damascus, which will be across the house or room. And while you're doing guiding them you need to hold their hands or arms and give them instructions like, "step up now" or, "there is a chair coming up, let's move to the left". That way we can remember Saul's story of having to be brought to Damascus blind. But we can also remember that once Saul met Ananias he was baptized and he could see again!

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, just like Saul, no matter who we are, no matter where we are, we are never too far away from coming to know you. Help us to remember anyone can come to you every we share about your love with our friends, our family, our neighbors, and the whole wide world. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 128 - Paul and Silas in Prison

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: After meeting Jesus and getting baptized, Saul (now named Paul) and his friend Silas went all over the place telling people about Jesus. Some were excited and choose to follow Jesus. Other were not happy about Paul and Silas sharing about God. In one town the people got very, very angry.

Acts 16:22-36

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the mob of people do with Paul and Silas?

What did Paul and Silas do while they were in prison?

What huge event happened late in the night?

Did Paul and Silas leave after the earthquake when the prison doors flew open?

When the jailer came down and saw Paul and Silas still there, what did he say?

What did Paul and Silas say the jailer needed to do?

Not only did the jailer get saved, but who else began to believe in God?

Activity:

Paul and Silas were put into jail telling others about God. Today, we'll have your child pretend to be in jail. Here are a couple of fun things you can do to add to the experience. First, you could make some chains out of paper. Take 3-5 long, thin, strips of paper, make them into loops, then connect them to each other with one looping into the next. Then place your child's hands in them to make handcuffs. Second, use something that simulates jail bars. You could use the grill in the oven, chairs, shelves, whatever you have around the house that has bars. Place your child in a corner and make an area where they are imprisoned. Then have them begin to pray and sing about Jesus. Once they are doing that, shake the entire area, have the gate fall down and have them break out of their paper chains. Then talk about how God did that miracle for Paul and Silas, all so the jailer could come to believe in 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, thank you that you will do anything to help people know you better. Sometimes we are even put in tough situations, like prison, so that other people can come to know you. Help us to remember that when we have hard times, that you are using them to make us stronger, and help other people fall in love with Jesus. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 129 - Paul's Shipwreck

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: One day, when Paul was preaching about Jesus, the Pharisees had Paul arrested and being put in jail again! This time Paul was put on a large boat that was going to Rome so that Paul could go on trial in front of Caesar, the leader of the entire Roman Empire. Acts 27:13-15, 27:21-32, 27:39-44,

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What happened to Paul's boat while they were out to sea?

Who came to Paul during the night?

What did the angel of God say to Paul?

How long was the Paul's boat in the storm?

What did the people on Paul's boat find on the fourteenth night of the storm?

What happened to Paul's boat in the morning once it was close to shore?

The angel of God said that the ship would wreck but everyone would be safe, at the end of today's story what happened?

Activity:

In today's story Paul's boat had a very rough time. Things were so bad that no one on the boat could eat. Have your child spin around and around until they are very dizzy (the amount of times varies by the child, but make sure they are dizzy enough not to want food but not so much they throw up). Then immediately offer your child some food. Most likely the child will refuse the food. Remind them that this is much like how Paul and the people on his boat felt because they had motion sickness. They felt unable to eat, but they were motion sick for two full weeks! You can imagine how terrible they felt and how happy they were to finally make it to land at the end of the 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, being on a ship in a big storm must have been very scary for the people on the ship, but we know that no matter how big the storm, and no matter how scary things are in our lives, that you are always there for us and that you love us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 130 - Paul's Snakebite

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Where was Paul going to on the ship?

Read:

Acts 28:1-6 (leave off the last part about deciding he was a god, as we won't resolve that in today's story), Acts 28:11-16, Acts 28:30-31

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What happened to Paul as he was gathering sticks to build a fire?

Where did Paul get bit by the snake?

What did the people expect to happen to Paul when he was bit on the hand by the snake?

What happened to Paul when he was bit by the snake?

How long was Paul in Malta after the shipwreck?

What did Paul do for the next two years after he got to Rome?

Activity:

After being in prison, and after being in a shipwreck, Paul got bit on the hand by a deadly snake! Today we'll make a sock puppet that will turn your hand into a snake. Take a sock (probably an adult sock, and preferably as long of a sock as possible) and put some eyes on it with a marker (if you want to reuse the sock as a sock, use a washable marker) or glue googly eyes if you have them. Then have your child stick their hand into the sock and make a mouth. Now you can reenact both the story of Paul getting bit by the snake, but also the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

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 we can always remember that just like Paul had a home in Rome, we can be thankful that you haven't given a home in heaven to everyone who loves and follows you. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 131 - The Armor of God

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Where did Paul end up living at the end of the story?

Read:

Please begin with: While Paul was living in Rome he began to write letters to all the friends that he had made to help them know more about how to live for God. The letter we'll read today talks about how, when we have hard times, we can use what God has given us to be strong in God.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why do we need to put on the armor of God?

Who does Paul say we are fighting against?

What is our belt?

What is our body armor?

What are our shoes?

What is our shield?

What is our helmet?

What is our sword?

What does it say we should do at all times?

Activity:

For this activity you will simulate the idea of the armor of God. Take a few pieces of paper and wad them up. Then throw them at your child. Ask your child if they felt the pieces of paper hit. Now it is time for the armor of God. Take some pillows and find a way to fasten them onto your child as a helmet and as body armor. Give your child a large pillow as a shield. Now toss the waded up paper again and, as they bounce off the shield and armor, ask your child if they felt anything. Explain that the first time the paper hit them because they weren't protected, but if we come to God, he can protect us from attacks.

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 attacks will come in our life, but we also know that, if we come to you, you will protect us. We pray that we always remember to put the armor of God. Thank you that, in you, we have truth, and peace and faith, and salvation, and the Bible to help us through even the toughest times. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 132 - A New Beginning

Recap:

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

Read:

Acts 1:6-11

Please begin with: The angels said that just as Jesus left, one day he will come back for all of us. The final book in the Bible is called Revelation. It is a book that talks about Jesus coming back for us, just like he promised. After Jesus comes, there will be a new beginning; a new heaven and a new earth!

Revelation 21:1-7

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What new things will we get after Jesus comes back for us?

Who will be with us forever?

What bad will God take away when we get to heaven?

Jesus said that he will be our God and we will be his what?

Activity:

God promises those who follow him that one day there will be no more sadness or crying because he will make all things new. To illustrate this we'll use one of the oldest magic tricks in the book. First, get two napkins or tissues, then crumple one (1) up and cup it in the palm of your hand where your child can not see it. Then, while holding that tissue (1) in your hand the entire time, hold the other tissue (2) up for your child to see. Say "this tissue (2) is much like our lives. Life is hard sometimes. People get hurt and people get sick." Every time you say one of those things tear the tissue (2) in two. Tell them that, "For most people, eventually our live feels like it's fallen apart, but here is the cool thing..." At this point make your hand that contains the whole tissue (1) into a fist and stuff the torn up tissue (2) in with it. "If we put ourselves into God's hands, he will make all things new." and pull out that whole tissue (1), while still hiding the torn one (2) in your hand. Then begin to unfold the tissue (1). Tell your child, "The Bible tells us that one day we won't hurt, we won't get sick, we will be with God and will get to love Him and worship Him forever!" It's a wonderful little trick to help your child understand the nature of salvation and of what will happen to us in heaven.

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 one day every single person who loves you and follows you will get to see a new heaven and a new earth. We are are so excited be with you forever, worshipping you in heaven. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 133 - 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.”