



FAMILY DEVOTIONALS WEEK 20
NEW TESTAMENT REVIEW

In the Old Testament, after Malachi was written, there were no more writings in the Bible for nearly 400 years! In the New Testament, after Revelation was written, there were no more writings for over 2000 years! Just like all of Israel waited and waited and waited for Jesus to come, today, we wait and wait for Jesus to come back. While the people of Israel waited for Jesus to come, they read from the Old Testament and remembered some of the stories. As we await for Jesus to return, we can continue to go back to the Bible and remember the stories about Jesus, the church, God's promises to his us. This week we will go back through our last 60 days of family devotions and celebrate the story of the New Testament.

Day 134 - Jesus is Born

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: In the Old Testament, after Malachi was written, there were no more writings in the Bible for nearly 400 years! All of Israel waited and waited and waited for Jesus to come until one day, in little town called Bethlehem, he was born.

Luke 1:26-43, Luke 2:1-20

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Mary?

What did the angel tell Mary?

What town was Jesus born in?

Where did Mary and Joseph put baby Jesus when he was born?

What did the shepherds do when the angels came and told them about Jesus birth?

Activity:

Nativity scenes are a popular way to remember the birth of Jesus. Today, make a nativity scene with your child and various other object you have around the house. Feel free to use stuffed animals, foods, or people, make outfits out of towels, blankets, or baggy clothes, find something to be baby Jesus and go for it. Your nativity scene can be serious or silly. Then tell the nativity story once more, act it out, and, just like Mary did with Jesus (Luke 2:19) store the memory away by taking a photo of the occasion.

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 coming down to us in the form of a little bitty baby. We know that you had to grow up just like we are growing up each day, so help us to grow up to be like you. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 135 - Jesus Teaches Us to Love

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: When Jesus grew up he did so many amazing things. He walked on water, healed the blind, fed 5000 people, calmed a raging storm, loved on children, raised people from the dead, told many cool stories, and raised people from the dead. But all of those things were just part of what Jesus was trying to do. The main reason Jesus was here was to teach us how to love.

Mark 12:28-34, Matthew 28:16-20

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What question did the teacher ask Jesus?

What two commandments (or rules) did Jesus say were the most important?

When the disciples came to the mountain, what three things did Jesus tell them to do?

How long did Jesus say he would be with the disciples?

How long will Jesus be with us?

Activity:

Sometimes it is hard for us to remember that Jesus is always with us. Today, you and your child choose a way that they can always remember that Jesus is with them. For example, you could write Matt 28:20 it in a place where they can always remember it is there, like the inside of their shoe. You could write it, "I will always be with you" on a piece of paper and put it in something they always carry with them, like their backpack. You could draw a small cross and a heart and place it somewhere in their room where they can always see it when they're laying down to sleep. These little reminders will help our child remember that Jesus is with them, always, even until the very end of time!

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 that you will be with us until the very end of time. Help us to love you every day and help us to love every single person that we meet and tell them how much you love them too. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 136 - Jesus on the Cross

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Many people loved Jesus, but the Pharisees did not. They did not like his teachings and so they had Jesus arrested and putt on a cross.

John 19:18-30, 19:38-42

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did they nail Jesus to?

What was written on the sign above Jesus head?

What were the names of the three women who were standing near the cross (hint: they all have the same name)?

What did they do with Jesus body after he died?

Activity:

You might remember Nicodemus from the time that Jesus and Nicodemus discussed being born again. The idea of being born again was very tough for Nicodemus to understand, and is still tough for people to understand today. Part of the reason it is so hard is because people don't remember their birth. Show your child some of their earliest photos after they were born. Discuss how small they are, how innocent they look. Talk about how that is what Jesus wants Nicodemus and all of us to do; start a new life with God.

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 sending your son, Jesus, to give up his life for us on the cross so that we can be with you forever. Help us to believe in you and always be thankful for the sacrifice you made so that we can be born again. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 137 - Jesus is Alive

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 28:1-7

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What were the names of the two women who went to visit Jesus tomb (hint: they have the same name)?

What happened as the two women were coming to the tomb?

Where did the angel say Jesus was?

Who did the angel tell Mary to go and tell?

Activity:

This is a fun trick to help show the empty tomb and how it is different than every other tomb ever. Take two eggs. Leave one egg as is. The second egg drill a tiny hole in both sides of it. Stick something small in the hole to break up the yolk in the egg. Then use one hole blow the contents of the egg out of the other hole. Once the egg is empty bring your child back in. Talk about how when you put people's bodies into a tomb their body stays there. So if you wanted to look, you could break into the tomb and see it, just like if we break into this egg. Then take the untouched egg in your hand and break it, leaving a gooey mess. Then say, "But Jesus is different. You see, they put Jesus' body in the tomb on Friday, but when Mary came to see the tomb on Saturday guess what happened? Are you ready?" Then take the hollowed out egg and crack it open. You can explain that, "just like this egg, Jesus' tomb was empty because he had risen from the grave."

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 glad to know that Jesus is not in a tomb, but he is alive today and we can always celebrate that Jesus is so great he even defeated even death! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 138 - The Church Begins

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: After Jesus went up to heaven the disciples had the Holy Spirit come to them. It was like a mighty wind, then they were flames on their heads, then they could even speak in foreign languages. That was when Peter got up to preach to the crowd.

Acts 2:36-47

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who did Peter tell the people of Jerusalem was the Lord and Messiah?

When the people asked Peter what they should do, what did Peter tell them?

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?

When they began listening to teaching, fellowshiping, eating meals together, sharing everything they had, praising God, and praying together, what happened to the church?

Activity:

The church of Acts 2 has a list of things they did together. They listened to teaching about the Bible, fellowship together, ate meals as a church, shared everything they had, praised God, and prayed together. Many people think of the church as being a groups of 50 or 500 or 5000 but many of the early churches, as well as churches even now, are only 5-10 people. Today, be the church together as a family (even if there are only 2-3 of you). You just read the Bible, so spend time fellowshiping together, eat a meal, praise God, and pray together. Even these devotionals are much like what the church was doing together 2000 years ago!

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 church. Help us to remember that church isn't only on Sunday in a building, but it is us, the people. We can be the church is every time that we get together with a group to pray or read the Bible or praise your name. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Day 139 - Jesus Comes Back

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: The church grew and grew and grew and is even still growing today across the world. The church that we attend is the great great great great grandson of the churches that Peter and John and Paul helped start. The church is the ones who tell others about Jesus until one day, Jesus comes back.

Acts 1:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 22:7, 22:20-21

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where was Jesus taken up to?

What did the angels say to the disciples about Jesus?

What does Jesus say about those who obey his word?

Who did Jesus say he sent his angel to give his message to?

Conclude with: The end of the Bible says, "Come, Lord Jesus come!" In the Old Testament, after Malachi was written, there were no more writings in the Bible for nearly 400 years! In the New Testament, after Revelation was written, there were no more writings for over 2000 years! Just like all of Israel waited for Jesus to come, we wait for Jesus to come back. As we wait for Jesus to return, we can continue to go back to the Bible and remember the stories about Jesus, the church, God's promises to his us!

Out of all the Bible stories that we learned about in our Family Devotions, which was your favorite? Why?

Out of all the activities we did, which was your favorite? Why?

Activity:

Read Matthew 24:27 and 24:36. Jesus says that his return will happen like lightning flashes. Next time there is a thunderstorm, have your child watch how quickly lightning happens. That's how quickly Jesus will return. However, Jesus also says that no one knows when he will return but God. During that thunderstorm, have your child try to predict the coming lightning. Give them multiple chances to shout, "NOW!" when they think lightning will happen. Explain to them just like we can't predict lightning (if they do get one it was just luck), we can't predict when Jesus will come back, but we should always be prepared to celebrate his return!

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 excited that one day Jesus will come back just like you promised. Help us to remember that when Jesus comes back it will be a time of celebration because we will get to be with you forever and ever and ever. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 140 - 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.”