

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Our Family Devotions are built to allow each family the opportunity to have a 5-15 minute devotional that includes Scripture, Questions, Activities, and Prayer. Please note that not all questions will be suitable for all ages, but do continue to challenge your kids with the tougher questions. 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. Even with an easier translation, be prepared to simplify or explain some of the more difficult words or concepts that may come up.

Day 71 - An Angel Visits Zechariah

Read:

It has been 400 years since Malachi promised the coming of Jesus. Now, the time for Jesus to come is almost here. But first, we need to meet Zechariah.

Luke 1:5-7, 1:11-12, 1:18-24, 1:57-64

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Zechariah in the temple?

What good news did the angel tell Zechariah?

Did Zechariah believe the angel? Why not?

What did the angel do to Zechariah for not believing in God's word?

When the baby was born, what did Zechariah tell his family he wanted the baby's name to be?

What happened to Zechariah when he said the baby's name was to be John?

Activity:

The angel made Zechariah unable to talk for over nine whole months! Today, have your child try to be silent for an extended period of time through something that normally takes communication such as a meal, a bath, or a game. If they need something they have to get you to understand without words. For more fun, switch roles and you be silent through that time and see if your child can understand what you want. Remind them what Zechariah had to go through as he waited for his son, John, to be born.

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 allowing us to go to church, like Zechariah. We pray that we always remember to listen to your words when you give them to us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 71 - An Angel Visits Mary

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Do you remember the name of Zechariah's wife? (Elizabeth)

Read:

Luke 1:26-43

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Mary?

What good news did the angel tell Mary?

Who did the angel tell Mary was also going to have a baby?

Where did Mary go after the angel came to visit her?

What did the baby in Elizabeth's belly do when Mary came to visit?

Activity:

In the last two days, an angel came to visit Zechariah and Mary to deliver good news of babies, but both times it was a huge surprise. Go around the room with your family and share about times you've had big surprises in your life. (Example: A birthday party, a present, a surprise visitor, a time you were on a walk and saw something amazing, etc.)

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, sometimes we are surprised by the things that you do, but we know that nothing surprises you because you know everything! Thank you for always taking care of us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 73 - Jesus is Born

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 2:1-7

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where did Mary and Joseph have to go?

Do you remember someone else from our stories who lived in Bethlehem? (Ruth - Day 29, David - Day 32)

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

Why did they put him in a manger?

Do you know what day we celebrate Jesus birth every year?

Activity:

A manger is a feeding trough or bowl for animals. Think about the son of God being born and placed in an animals food bowl. If you have an animal who eats out of a bowl (so not a fish), take your child to that bowl. If you do not have an animal next time you are at a store where they have bowls or animals who might be eating out of bowls stop by that area of the store. Remind your child off the story of Jesus birth. Ask your child if they think it is clean or dirty? Ask them if they would want to put a baby in that bowl? Then remind them that's exactly where Jesus was placed when he was born all because he loves 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 for Christmas and for sending Jesus to us. We pray that we always remember that the reason for Christmas is Jesus birth. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 74 - Angels Visit the Shepherds

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 2:8-20

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit the shepherds in their fields?

What were the shepherds doing when the angel came to visit them?

What did the angels tell the shepherds?

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

Activity:

The Bible tells us that a vast host, a whole army of angels, came to the shepherds and praised God. While the Bible doesn't say that the angels sang, many people believe that they did. Reread Luke 2:14 and help your child make it into a little song. Then sing the song throughout the day as a celebration of 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, the shepherds praised you, the angels praised you, and we pray that we remember to praise you each and every single day. Thank you for being so amazing and loving us so much! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 75 - Wise Men Come To See Jesus

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 2:1-2, 2:9-11

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where did the wise men come from?

What did they say they saw that caused them to come to find Jesus?

Why did King Herod say he wanted to see baby Jesus?

What did the wise men do when they found baby Jesus?

What three things did the wise men give to baby Jesus?

Activity:

Go out and look at the stars on the horizon (this is important because then you could walk towards the star, as oppose to if it is in the middle of the sky). Point out a particular star to your child. Explain to them that this is how the wise men were able to find Jesus. They saw a special star that God had put there, they followed that star, and it led them right to 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 pray that we are like the wisemen and we can always remember to give you gifts. We pray that we not be selfish with what we have because you gave us the greatest gift of all. You gave us Jesus. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 76 - Jesus Goes to the Temple

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Today is a special story. This is the only story in the Bible about Jesus being a child.

Luke 3:41-52

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How old was Jesus in this story?

Where did Jesus and Mary and Joseph go?

When Mary and Joseph went to look for Jesus, where did they find him?

What was Jesus doing?

Activity:

Play a game much like hide and seek. Have your child hide and then walk around saying, "Jesus, Jesus, where are you?" and when you get close your child can pop out and say, "Here I am!" Talk about the fact that Mary and Joseph didn't know where Jesus was and when children get lost it can be very upsetting. Take time to talk to your child about a plan of what to do if they were to become lost.

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 so much that we can know that no matter where in the world we might be, you know exactly where we are. We pray that we can remember you are always there with us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 77 - 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.”

Day 78 - Jesus Gets Baptized

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Do you remember the name of Zechariah and Elizabeth's son from last week?

Read:

Please begin with: Last week we talked about Zechariah and Elizabeth having a son named John. As we begin today's story Jesus and John have both grown up and are now telling other people about God.

Mark 1:1-11

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

John was given a job by God. What was that job?

John was preparing everyone he talked to for someone very special. Who was John preparing them for?

What happened when John baptized Jesus and Jesus came up out of the water?

What did the voice of God say about Jesus?

Activity:

In today's story Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Christians around the world still baptize people today. Take time in the next day or so to do a water based activity as playing in the sprinklers, taking a shower or bath, or going swimming. While you're doing those things talk to your child about the difference between getting wet and being baptized. Baptism is something a person does when they have asked Christ to be the leader of their life. It symbolizes the washing away of our sins, so we are clean when we come out of the water. Baptism also symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is important to Christians both because Jesus was baptized but also because Jesus told us that we are suppose to baptize those who follow him (Matthew 28:19-20).

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 baptism. We are thankful that, just like soap cleans away dirt, when we come to you, you will clean away all of our sins. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 79 - Jesus Gets Tempted

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Right after John baptized Jesus, Jesus left for the desert to get far far away from everyone else so that he could take time to pray.

Luke 4:1-13

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Where did Jesus go?

How long was Jesus out in the wilderness?

Who came to the wilderness to tempt Jesus?

Jesus hadn't eaten anything for 40 whole days, so what was the first thing the devil tried to tempt Jesus with?

What did Jesus tell the devil?

Activity:

Everyone has been tempted at some time or another. To be tempted is to want to have something that you know is wrong or not helpful to you. Ask your child if they have ever been tempted to do something wrong. If so, what was it? Tell them that they are not alone, it is hard for most people when they are tempted. Today, act out the temptation of Jesus. Have your child be Jesus and you be the devil. Tempt your child with something like a cookie or candy, and have them resist, just like Jesus did. Then tell your child that with Jesus by our side, we can avoid the temptations of life. You can later give them the cookie, just as when Jesus finished his time of being tempted he was able to go and eat bread 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 you are always there for us. Please do not allow us to fall into temptation but help us to always come to you when we are tempted to do bad. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 80 - Jesus Does His First Miracle

Recap:

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

Read:

John 2:1-12

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What type of party were Jesus, Mary, and the disciples at?

What problem came up at the party?

What did Jesus have the servants do?

What happened when the servants filled the jars with water?

Activity:

Away from your child gather two glasses (preferably one that is clear). In one glass put some purple food dye (a quarter sized amount will probably do it). In the second glass (the clear one if you have one) pour some hot water. Then bring your child in and remind them of the story of turning water into wine. When you get to the part of Jesus calling for the empty jug stick your hand into the cup with the dye. Don't touch the dye but put it in far enough to show your child the cup is "empty". Then dip your hand into the cup of water to show it is real water. For the climax, pour the water into the glass with the dye. Then, take your empty water cup, and pour the new "wine" back into the cup. Explain that this was just a trick, but Jesus was God so he could do it in real life and not only could Jesus turn water into wine, he made the best wine ever!

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 birthdays and holidays and weddings. It is fun to celebrate those happy times, but help us always to remember to celebrate you more than anything else in the whole wide world. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 81 - Nicodemus Meets Jesus

Recap:

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

Read:

John 3:1-16

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Jesus?

What was Nicodemus' job?

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that Nicodemus needed to have happen?

Did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was talking about?

Activity:

Read John 3:16 again. This is the most famous verse in the entire Bible. Try to memorize it with your child. If you can, add verse 17 also. Perhaps make it into a song, or give a reward for memorizing it, or have some fun way to encourage your child to remember this verse.

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 loved this whole world so much that you sent Jesus down to us. Thank you that we can know that anyone who wants to can believe in you and they will have eternal life. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Day 82 - Jesus Helps Peter Catch Fish

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 5:1-11

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What was Jesus doing on the Sea of Galilee?

What did Jesus tell Peter to do?

What did Peter say when Jesus told him to throw his nets in the water?

What happened when Peter obeyed Jesus?

How did Peter, James, and John behave when they saw how many fish there were?

What did Jesus tell them they would fish for now?

What did Peter, James, and John do when they got back to land?

Activity:

Jesus told Peter, James, and John that they were going to fish for men. This means that, if they followed Jesus, they would go out and try to help people know all about Jesus. Fishing for men is something very silly to think about. Grab a stick and put a string on it to turn into a fishing rod (if you use a real fishing rod please **REMEMBER TO TAKE THE HOOK OFF**), if you want, tie a bit of food on as bait. Then play "fishing for men" with them. Cast your rod and let your child swim around, and bite on to the string or bait, then pull them in and have them act like a fish. If you want, reverse roles and let them fish for men too.

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 were able to give Peter, James, and John so many fish that their nets were about to break all because they obeyed you. Help us to obey you and always remember to do whatever you tell us too. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 83 - Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Recap:

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

Read:

Mark 2:1-12

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why couldn't the four men carrying their friend get to Jesus through the front door?

What did the four men decide to do to get their friend to Jesus?

What did Jesus tell the paralyzed man first?

The Pharisees were upset because no one can forgive sins but God. Of course we know that Jesus is God! What did Jesus do to prove to the Pharisees that he is God?

What the paralyzed man do when Jesus healed him?

Activity:

Being paralyzed is very hard, it means that you can't move parts of your body. Today, choose your child's arms or legs and have them be paralyzed for a set of time where it would be useful to have those limbs. So have dinner with their arms paralyzed or have them try to get to bed with their legs being paralyzed. Someone will have to help them to do nearly everything. Explain to them this is how the man in the story was before Jesus healed him. After a time of being paralyzed they will easily be able to understand why the paralyzed man was so happy he jumped up and began to run around.

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 amazing. You were able to change that paralyzed man's life and you are able to change our lives too. Thank you for that you are willing to heal us of our sins. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 84 - 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.”

Day 85 - Jesus has Dinner with Matthew

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 9:9-13

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

When Jesus came to Matthew, what was Matthew doing?

What did Jesus say to Matthew?

What did Matthew do?

How did the Pharisees feel about Jesus going to dinner with Matthew?

Who did Jesus say he came to save?

Activity:

Matthew was a tax collector and people did not like tax collectors. Choose an object that has dozens of pieces in it such as a bag of small candies. Remind them of the story of Matthew and tell your child you're giving them candy to have, but that you are the tax collector. Divide the pieces of candy equally amongst you and your children. Before they are allowed to eat any, tell them that you are the tax collector and you need to implement a Mommy/Daddy tax. Take a portion of their candy for yourself. Then remind them you are the tax collector and the house they live in is expensive, so there is a house tax. Take another portion of candy. Continue on with taxes until you have nearly all the candy and they only have a piece or two. Then say that looks about right and they are welcome to have what's left. Now ask your child whether they like tax collectors. This will explain why the Pharisees and other people didn't like Matthew, because he was a tax collector and he took everything they had. But, fortunately, Jesus loves everyone and even let Matthew become one of his disciples!

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 that you love everybody, even when we mess up. Thank you that we can always be like Matthew and choose to follow you and be your disciples. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 86 - The 12 Disciples and the Mustard Seed

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Today we'll be talking about the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God being in charge over everything forever just like a king is in charge over the land, but the Kingdom of God is also God being in charge of our hearts and the hearts of everyone who follows Jesus, just like a king is in charge of his people. Today we'll see 12 men follow Jesus and then Jesus will tell them, and us, more about the Kingdom of God.

Luke 6:12-16, Matthew 13:31-32

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did Jesus do before he picked the disciples?

How many disciples did Jesus pick?

Jesus spends much of his time teaching the disciples about the Kingdom of...what?

Jesus told the disciples that the Kingdom of God was like what type of seed?

What did Jesus say would happen to a mustard seed?

Activity:

Take time to get a mustard seed (either you or someone you know probably has one in their pantry spice rack). Show your child how small a mustard seed is. Then go outside and look at how big a tree is. Talk about how that tiny seed is just like the kingdom of God, it might start small, but with love, the Kingdom and our love for God can grow and flourish into a giant tree.

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 Kingdom of God. It is so good to know when you plant your seed in our hearts that, if we follow you, it will grow and grow and grow into a big, beautiful, tree. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 87 - The Treasure of God

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Do you remember what the Kingdom of God is?

Read:

Matthew 13:44

Questions:

In this story, what valuable thing did Jesus say the Kingdom of God was like?
What did the man do to get the Kingdom of God?

Read:

Matthew 13:45-46

Questions:

In this story, what valuable thing did Jesus say the Kingdom of God was like?
What did the man do to get the Kingdom of God?
Why do you think the man sold everything he had?

Activity:

Hide a “treasure” somewhere in your house. Have your child imagine they are an explorer looking for the famed treasure. If need be, help them by giving them, “hotter” or, “colder” hints. Once the treasure is found remind them that no matter how valuable that treasure is, God’s love is way more valuable.

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 your love is the most valuable thing in the whole wide world. Help us to never forget how much you love us and help us to be willing to give up everything we have to love you back. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Day 88 - Don't Worry

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Do you remember what the Kingdom of God is?

Read:

Matthew 6:25-33

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What does Jesus tell us not to do?

What animal does Jesus tell us has enough food to eat?

What plant does Jesus tell us is prettier than any piece of clothing ever?

What does Jesus tell us that we should be doing instead of worrying?

What does Jesus tell us that God will give us if we seek the Kingdom of God above everything else?

Activity:

Today, our activity will be more serious one, as we discuss the topic of worry. Ask your child, "What is something that you worry about?" Show your child that you care about the things they worry about by hearing them out, repeating it back to them, and offering to work with them to help them come up with a solution together. If the worry is a temporary worry, something that will resolve itself in a short amount of time, help them to understand perspective. That the problem may be worrying now, but no matter what, things will be OK in the long run. If it is a larger worry such as war, famine, etc. ask your child where they are getting that information, as most young children don't seek out this type of information on their own. Acknowledge the seriousness of the issue they are worried about and tell them that many people are working to solve the problem and, depending on the issue, maybe one day they can also help solve the problem. Ultimately, tell them that God has everything under his control. Go outside and show your child nature, or the stars, or animals and remind them that God created all of that and God keeps it all going. If God can do that, he can take care of any of our worries. (You might consider removing the cause of worry from the child's life to minimize their concerns until they are older and more able to process larger level situations.) Finally, thank your child for talking to you about worry and offer to pray with them about the worry they are having.

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 we are worried about insert worry, but we know that you created everything, you control everything, and that we can come to you with our worry. Help us to always bring our worries to you and know that you can take care of them. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 89 - The Soldier's Faith

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 7:1-10

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why was the Roman officer sad?

What happened before Jesus arrived to the Roman officer's house?

What did the Roman officer say to Jesus?

How did Jesus feel when he heard what the Roman officer said?

What did Jesus say to the crowd when he heard this?

What happened when the Roman officer returned home?

Activity:

Today, you'll make a roman helmet. Begin by searching the internet for a picture of a Roman helmet to get an idea of what you're going for. Get an empty gallon of milk (if you don't drink milk a friend probably does). With your child, cut the spout and the handle portion off. This should make it similar to face shaped and approximately small child sized. If you would like to decorate your helmet feel free to use things such as markers, glue, feathers, tin foil, glitter, and whatever else your child might enjoy. Then have your child put on the helmet and play the part of the Roman officer in the story. Remind them it was because of the Roman officers great faith in God that his servant was healed.

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 can do so many great miracles. We thank you that we can have faith in you no matter what is happening in our lives. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 90 - Jesus Raises a Boy from the Dead

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 7:11-17

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

When Jesus and his disciples came to the village of Nain, what did they see?

Who had died?

What did Jesus tell the widow?

What did Jesus do to the coffin?

What happened when Jesus touched the coffin and said, "Get up!"?

What did people think about Jesus after he raised the boy from the dead?

Activity:

Today's activity is a dance party. While the Bible doesn't say that there was dancing in this story, in Jesus' time dancing was a common way to celebrate something good that happened. The people of Jesus' time danced at weddings, they danced at birthday parties, and they even danced to worship God. That means it is extremely likely that people danced and shouted praises to celebrate Jesus bringing the widow's son back to life. Turn on some fun music and dance and shout to celebrate how great Jesus is. He brought a widow's son back to life and he gives us eternal life!

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 think you can bring people back from the dead! We are so glad that one day you will bring us home to be with you forever. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 91 - A Day at Church

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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.”

Day 92 - Jesus Forgives a Woman

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 8:36-50

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to visit Jesus while he was having dinner with the Pharisees?

What did the woman do for Jesus?

What did the Simon, the Pharisee, think about the woman kissing Jesus feet and rubbing perfume on them?

What did Jesus tell Simon?

What did Jesus do for the woman?

Activity:

In Jesus' day, people wore sandals and the roads were not paved, they were all dirt. So, when you would enter a house, everyone's feet would be very dirty! That's why Jesus was surprised when Simon, the Pharisee, didn't offer water to Jesus to clean Jesus' feet. Have your child go barefoot in a dirty or muddy place (or, if you are unable to do that, just put some flour or something that you can wash off) and then come back and help them clean their feet. Watch the dirt wash away and discuss how the woman washed the dirt away Jesus feet and Jesus washed away the dirt from the woman's life by forgiving her!

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 that you are always willing to forgive us, no matter what we have done. Help us to come to you and ask for forgiveness when we have done wrong. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 93 - Jesus Calms the Storm

Recap:

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

Read:

Mark 4:34-41

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What happened while Jesus and the disciples were in the boat?

What was Jesus doing when the storm came?

What did the disciples do when the storm came?

What did Jesus say to the storm when he woke up?

What did the storm do when Jesus told it to stop?

How did the disciples feel about Jesus after the storm had stopped?

Activity:

Sometimes it's tough to think about how scary it would be out in the middle of a big lake when a storm hits. The next time your child takes a bath place a small plastic object, such as a storage container or a toy, in the water with you. See how tiny it is in the bathtub. Then have your child be the storm. Have them blow and splash and make the boat shake. It is easy to see why the disciples were so scared. Then you be the disciples and beg Jesus to stop the storm and have your child pretend to be Jesus and tell the storm to stop. Watch how quickly everything in the bathtub become calm. It's a wonderful reminder of how powerful Jesus is in our lives and in nature.

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 when we face storms in our lives, when things seem big and scary, we know that you are there for us and that you are in control of everything, so we never have to worry. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 94 - Jesus Sends Demons into a Herd of Pigs

Recap:

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

Read:

Please begin with: Right after Jesus calmed the storm the boat arrived on the other side of the lake, that's where today's story takes place.

Mark 5:1-20

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Who came to see Jesus when he got out of the boat?

What was wrong with the man?

What did Jesus do with the demons in the man?

What did the pigs do when the demons went into them?

How did the people in town treat Jesus when they heard about the miracle?

What did Jesus tell the man to do now that he was healed?

Activity:

When we first met the demon possessed man he had wild hair and chains on his hands and feet and didn't wear hardly any clothes. When the demon possessed man saw Jesus he jumped and yelled and hit himself. But Jesus was able to change the demon possessed man's entire life. In fact, the Bible says that people were afraid because the demon possessed man was fully clothed and acted perfectly nice. Can you imagine that type of change? Today, have your kids play a little bit of dress up. Have them dress up in a strange outfit and pretend to be a completely different person. Explain to them that this is how the demon possessed man felt, he felt like he wasn't himself, that he was a different person, until Jesus came to the demon possessed man and healed him. Then the demon possessed man went and told everyone he could about the great things Jesus had done in his life.

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 can be like the man in this story and go and tell everyone we meet about the great things you have done in our lives. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 95 - Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

Recap:

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

Read:

John 6:1-14

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What was the problem that happened while Jesus was teaching?

How much food did the young boy have to help out?

How many people were there to feed?

What did Jesus do with the bread and fish?

How much food was left over when everyone was done eating?

What did people think about Jesus after he performed this miracle?

Activity:

When you have dinner this evening, give your child their plate and talk about the boy with the loaves and fish. Those loaves and fish were enough to feed on child just like them. Ask your child if your whole family could eat off of just the food they have on their plate? What about the entire church (or their school class or something that the child would have an idea of as 50-500 people)? Could they all eat just off of that one meal? Could everyone in your whole neighborhood, or town or school (depending on the size ratio to get it into the thousands) be full off of your plate of food? No way! That seems impossible that so many people could all be filled by that one little meal. Yet, with Jesus' help, those loaves and fish from one small boy, fed over 5000 people! That's how powerful God is!

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 food that you give us every single day to eat. We are so blessed that you love us and that you are a God of miracles. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 96 - The Good Samaritan

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 10:25-37

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What happened to the man as he was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho?

Who was the first person who came by the injured man?

What did the Jewish priest do?

Who was the second person who came by the injured man?

What did the Temple assistant do?

Who was the third person who came by the injured man?

What did the Samaritan do?

What did the Samaritan tell the innkeeper to do?

Activity:

Jesus tells this story because a religious teacher asks Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Today, help your child do something nice for one of your neighbors. For example, they could write your neighbor a card and give it to them, or put it in their mail box. They could help make some cookies. They could even just go over and say hello, ask their name, and get to know them a little better. Jesus says we are to love our neighbors and the best way to start that is by being nice to them and getting to know them better.

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 be like the good Samaritan. God, we hope that when we see someone who is hurt or sad, that we will take the time to go and care for them, just like you always take the time to care for us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 97 - Jesus Shines Like the Sun

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 9:28-36

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Why did Jesus, Peter, James, and John go up the mountain?

What happened to Jesus face and clothes when they were praying?

What were the names of the two men who showed up to talk to Jesus?

What did Peter want to do for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses?

What did the voice of God, the voice from Heaven, say to Peter, James, and John?

Activity:

When Jesus was on top of the mountain the Bible says his face and cloths became a blinding bright white. For this activity you will need:

- Two pieces of paper that light can't get through. Construction paper, cardboard, etc.
- One piece of something that is thin but still opaque such as wax paper, toilet paper, etc.
- Tape, or glue, and scissors.

Use the first sheet of construction paper for you and your child to cut a man shaped hole. Then glue or tape the strip of wax paper (or other thin but still opaque paper) to the back of that first sheet of construction paper so that it completely covers Jesus. Finally, hold the second piece of construction paper behind the wax paper. So there should be cut out of Jesus paper, wax paper, full piece of construction paper. Now retell the story and hold your project up to the light. When it comes time for Jesus face and clothes to glow, pull the full sheet of construction paper off and the light should shine through the wax paper, making Jesus glow!

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, the thing you told Peter, James, and John in the story today was that Jesus is your chosen one and that we should listen to him. We pray that we that we also remember to always listen to you when you talk to us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 98 - 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.”

Day 99 - The Wise and Foolish Builder

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 7:24-29

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

Did Jesus say that people who listen to him are like a smart builder or a foolish builder?

What does a smart builder build on?

What happens to a house built on rock when it rains?

Did Jesus say that people who don't listen to him are like a smart builder or a foolish builder?

What does a foolish builder build on?

What happens to a house built on sand when it rains?

Activity:

Today, have your child be a wise and foolish builder. Remind them of the story of the wise and foolish builder. Have them build two houses; one house out of a flimsy object, such as cards or leaves, and one out of a firm object, such as building blocks or small rocks. Then come along as the storm, where you and your child will stomp and blow on the houses. The flimsy house should fall apart with some good stomping or blowing. The firm house should stay standing with stomping and blowing if well built.

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 our lives can be strong and solid, just like the firm house, if we build our lives on following you. Please help us to always be faithful to your word, the Bible. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 100 - Jesus Walks on Water

Recap:

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

Read:

Matthew 14:22-33

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the disciples think they saw on the water?

What did they really see on the water?

What did Jesus tell them?

What did Peter ask to do?

What happened when Peter got out on the water?

Why did Peter start to sink?

What did the disciples say about Jesus when he got into the boat?

Activity:

The Bible says that Peter saw the wind and, when he took his eyes off of Jesus, he became afraid. Today we'll play a game to keep our eyes on God. Find something to represent Jesus such as a person in your family, a stuffed animal, or a picture of Jesus. Have your child be Peter getting out of the boat and walking across the room to Jesus. Then your job is to distract your child. Yell, wave your arms, blow in their ear, toss pieces of paper at them, whatever you can to get them to take their eyes off of God. When they look away remind them that they are sinking and they need to keep their eyes on Jesus. When they get to their destination celebrate with them and remind them that, as long as they keep their eyes on God, everything will be okay.

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, don't let us become distracted by the world, but help us to keep our eyes on you, no matter what is happening in our lives. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 101 - The Lost Sheep

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 15:1-7

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How many sheep did the shepherd have?

How many sheep got lost?

What did the shepherd do when he found out that one of his sheep was lost?

What did the shepherd do when he found the lost sheep?

What did Jesus say causes a celebration in heaven (15:7)?

Activity:

You and your child take turns being the lost sheep. The sheep hides somewhere in the house and "baahs" as the shepherd seeks to find the lost sheep. The shepherd can call out reassuring things to the sheep such as, "don't worry, I'm on my way" and, "I'm coming to find you and I'll take care of you." Then, when the sheep is found have a celebration and remind your child that heaven celebrates every time a person comes to know and love 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 are so happy to know that you would leave the other sheep to come find us, just like you left heaven to come and save us. Thank you that you love every single person in the whole wide world. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 102 - The Lost Son

Recap:

Do you remember what happened in our last story? What happened? Who was lost in that story?

Read:

Please begin with: Yesterday Jesus told a story about a lost sheep, today Jesus will tell us another story, this one about a lost son.

Luke 15:11-24, 15:32

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the younger son want from his father?

What did the younger son do with all the money he was given?

What happened when the younger son ran out of money?

What did the younger son take as a job to be able to eat?

Where did the younger son finally decide to go?

What did the father do when the younger son finally came back?

Why did the father celebrate that day?

Activity:

The younger son became so hungry that the Bible tells us even the food pigs eat began to look good to him. For your next meal that you have some scraps left (for example: the left over rinds from fruits and vegetables, bones from meats, or just the little bits of food left uneaten after dinner) and collect all of the scraps. Then give them to your child to eat. Remind the child about how hungry the younger son in the story became. He became so hungry that even those gross scraps began to look good to him. But when the younger son came home the father loved him so much the younger son didn't have to eat scraps, instead the younger son had a big dinner party thrown in his honor!

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, sometimes we forget how much you have given us and we run away from you. Help us to always remember that we can always come back to you. Thank you that when we come back to you, we can be sure that you will welcome us home with open arms and tell us 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 103 - The Rich Ruler

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 18:18-30

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

What did the rich man ask Jesus?

What did Jesus say the rich man needed to do first?

Had the rich man followed all the commandments Jesus had asked him to?

What did Jesus ask the rich man to do next?

Did the rich man want to do that? Why not?

What did Jesus say about people who give up things to follow Jesus?

Activity:

In this story Jesus says it is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. To help your child understand how difficult this is, get a needle (or something else with a tiny hole, such as a ring, a paper clip, or a clothes pin). Then, together, try to fit something large through it (such as a couch, a car, or door). Keep working at it from different angles. When your child learns the task is impossible remind them what Jesus said; that with God, everything is possible. Then remind them of some of the stories you've already read. Jesus walked on water, brought a boy back to life, fed 5000 people with just a few pieces of bread and fish, and calmed a storm. Jesus is God and with God all things are possible.

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 sometimes we can't do things, but we also know that with you, anything is possible. Thank you for being the all powerful God over everything! Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 104 - Jesus and the 10 Lepers

Recap:

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

Read:

Luke 17:11-19

Questions:

What happened in today's story?

Do you have any questions about today's story?

How many men did Jesus see who had leprosy?

What did the 10 men who had leprosy ask Jesus for?

What did Jesus tell the 10 men with leprosy to do?

How many of the 10 men with leprosy came back to thank Jesus?

Activity:

Even though Jesus healed 10 men of their painful leprosy, only one took the time to come back and thank Jesus for all that he had done for them. Often we also forget to thank Jesus for everything he has done for us. Have your child take time throughout the day to see and think about things that God has blessed them with and then have your child say those things out loud. Occasionally help them by pointing out extra things they might have missed. Over the entire day this will help your child see and verbalize how much they have to be thankful to God for.

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, much like the 10 lepers in today's story, we have so much to be thankful for because you have blessed us so very much, but the thing we are most thankful for is that you love us and you sent Jesus down to save us. Today, we want to pray for insert prayer requests. God, thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Day 105 - 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.”

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 loves 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 was 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. Generosity 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 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?

When Jesus and the disciples sat down for dinner, what did Jesus do with the bread that he had at the dinner table?

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.”

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. Remind them that this is what Jesus was asking God to give him direction and that we need to make sure 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 will 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 him 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 him?

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 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 is 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, 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. Make vary your harshness based on the child and their tolerance level. 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 don't follow you or listen to you, we can remember that 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 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 cushions 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.”

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?

Who was hiding in the room behind locked doors?

Why were the disciples hiding in a room behind locked doors?

Which disciple 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. God never lies and he always keeps his promises (Read: Hebrews 6:18). 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 the Bible says 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 question does Jesus ask Peter?

What does Peter say to Jesus?

What does Jesus then 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 they can remember they threw away their 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. 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. (FYI: 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". This a wonderful way to 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 to walk and run around 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.”

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. 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. Either blindfold your child or have your child close their eyes. Then guide your child by holding their hands or arms and giving them instructions like, "step up now" or, "there is a chair coming up, let's move to the left". Then, when you reach your destination, celebrate just like Paul did when he regained his sight. Through this activity we can remember Saul's story of having to be brought to Damascus blind. But we can also remember that once Saul met Ananias and was baptized, Paul 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 so we should always 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 people were excited and wanted to follow Jesus. Other people 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 thing 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 thrown 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, you are always there for 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 have 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 things 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 life 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!" Even if your child figures out how you did the trick, it's a wonderful lesson 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 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.”

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 have been 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, and God's promises to 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 and act it out. Mary stored away her time with Jesus in her heart (Luke 2:19). You can also store the memory away by taking a photo of the nativity story you've created.

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, 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, help your child choose a way that they can always remember that Jesus is with them. For example, you could write Matt 28:20 in a place where they can always remember it is there, like the inside of their shoe. You could write, "God 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 children 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 put 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 (Day 81). 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 spiritually do; he wants us to be born 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 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. When your child is not in the room, get 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 there were flames on their heads, then the disciples 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, 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 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 and its people are 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 have been 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.”