



Jesus and the Journey to the Cross

Family Connection — WEEK 1

Week 1 – Cleaning Out the Inside

Easter preparation first begins with reflection. We in our humanity tend toward complacency. We allow habits to creep in that detract from our walk in Christ or we become blinded to the things in our life that are choking the growth of Christlikeness from our walk. Christ's sacrifice for us demands our own sacrifice of repentance. What needs to be cleaned out to make more room for Jesus?

Family Time with God

Activity

Begin your family time with God with a lost and found activity – here are some options:

- ◆ Younger Children – Hide 10 coins around an area of your house. Celebrate when all 10 are found.
- ◆ Younger & Older – Guide your older children to hide the coins for their younger sibling(s) to find.
- ◆ Older – “Lose” something important – maybe the computer mouse or the car keys. Make a big deal of this as you engage your children in your hunt for the missing item.

Ask your child about their experience. How did they feel when the item was “lost” and “found”? *We are going to look in the Bible and read a parable – a story Jesus told about something lost.**

Open the Bible

Read or tell the story of Luke 15, verses 1-3a and 8-10.

Think about It and Respond

How important was that coin to the women?

Jesus wanted us to know how important it is when someone repents – decides to follow Jesus. He used the women searching for the coin to help us think about this. From His story, how important are people to God?

If each of us is this important to God, how should you respond to Him? (John 14:15-17)

Bring out a trash bag, and guide a conversation about attitude, actions and even habits that get between us and God.

- ◆ *What do we need to clean out of our lives?*
- ◆ *Do we always do the things that honor God? Honor means to show respect and love.*

Let's think about some things that don't show our love for God. We are going to write these on pieces of paper and throw them where they belong, in the garbage!

End with a time of prayer thanking God for showing you what needs to be cleaned out of your lives and thanking the Holy Spirit for helping us show our love for God.

** Sentences in italics can be read as written, put in your own words or adapted for your family.*

