



Jesus and the Journey to the Cross

Family Connection — WEEK 2

Week 2 – A Conversation with God

With a clean house, we have made room for Jesus to dwell. Some of the most beautiful pictures in the gospels are those intimate encounters with Christ – Mary at Jesus' feet, Thomas' restoration, the blessing of the Children, the calling of Matthew. Those moments when all the world seemed to stop so Jesus could have a moment alone with one of His own. Lent provides a time for us to rethink and renew our time with God.

Family Time with God

Activity

Begin your family time with God with a science experiment. Fill a tall glass $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water and mix in 1 teaspoon of baking soda until fully dissolved put the glass inside a bowl in case of spillage. Tell your child that you can make raisins dance. Guide your child to put a few raisins into the water. *Hmmmm... what are they doing?* Guide your child to finish filling the glass with vinegar. Watch what happens. (this can also be done with clear soda – the instructions for this & science explanation are easily found on the internet).

Ask your child what caused the raisins to move? *Jesus told a parable about cause and effect to help us think about prayer.*

Open the Bible

Read or tell the story of Luke 18:1-8.

Think about It and Respond

What caused the judge to do the right thing for the widow?

Verse 8 tells us that God does answer our prayers. Why? (we certainly don't need to pester Him! Guide your child to think of God's love, care and concern for us).

Verse 8 also tells us the kind of prayer that pleases God. We should pray with what? We can trust God to always do what is right and good.

End with a time of prayer. Talk about something that you as a family are concerned about – it might be a person, a prayer request from church, or a family circumstance. Encourage your child to talk to God out loud about this.

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

More Spiritual Conversation Starters

Here are some additional conversation starters that you can use during your Family Time with God, Family Experience, or just in your day to day conversations.

- ◆ Why did Jesus tell this parable? (to never give up in prayer). If God doesn't need to be pestered to hear our prayers, why do we need to keep praying?
- ◆ Find moments throughout the week to pray with your child. It might just be a sentence prayer as you are driving prompted by something you see or something you are talking about.
- ◆ For older kids, unpack the concept of justice.
- ◆ For older kids, this might be a good week for them to try out an alone time with God if they have not yet started having their own personal quiet time.

KEY VERSE

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left his house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

Family Experience

Supplies needed: Small jar needed for each child, assorted jelly beans

Experience: Give each child their own small jar. Spend time reading the Jelly Bean Prayer together and talking about the different components and how special we are that Jesus gave us so much through His gift of salvation. Every day as they initiate time to pray for something or someone, they will be able to add a different colored jelly bean to their jar. They cannot earn white jellybeans because these represent the Grace of Christ, which is a gift not earned ourselves. On Easter morning, the kids wake to find their jars filled up where they were still empty (lacking) with white jellybeans (Christ's grace). On Easter Sunday, let your kids enjoy their treat. Remember, praying for the same thing again is OK!”

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave
Pray for parents/caregiver(s)

Green is for the grass He made
Pray for sibling(s)

Yellow is for the sun so bright
Pray for friend(s)

Orange is for the edge of night
Pray for teacher(s)

Black is for the sins we made
Pray for school mate(s)

White is for the grace He gave
Purple is for the house of sorrow
Pray for leader(s)

Pink is for the new tomorrow
Pray for yourself



Use the space below to write some prayer requests and make an effort to pray for them every day over the next week.

How do you see God answering your prayers?
