
Matthew: Let's Talk

This Grace@Home Let's Talk Guide provides discussion questions and activities that you may use to facilitate conversations about God and His Word in your home. The focus is on those chapters that are most likely to promote meaningful conversations for all ages of family members.

Matthew 1

Share with your family the most vivid dream you ever had.

Questions:

1. What Biblical characters do you recognize in the genealogy of Jesus?
2. Did these people ever make mistakes? How did God use them despite their imperfections?
3. What did the angel say to Joseph?
4. What kinds of conversations do you think that Joseph and Mary had while she was pregnant with God's son? What do you think it felt like for Joseph to feel Jesus move in Mary's tummy?

Matthew 3

Write a newspaper article or dramatize a newscast describing the scene at the Jordan River.

Questions:

1. What was the job of John the Baptist?
2. What were the different opinions regarding John the Baptist? Why do you think he had such a different effect depending on the person?
3. What did John say when Jesus came to be baptized?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized?

Matthew 4

What are some temptations you face?
Brainstorm together some scriptures you could use to fight back against these temptations.

Questions:

1. How long did Jesus go without food? With what did the devil first tempt Jesus?
2. For every temptation, how did Jesus respond? What does that tell you about the importance of knowing the Bible?
3. What can we learn from this chapter about the ways the devil tempts us? How can we be aware and then avoid some temptations in the future?
4. After the time of temptation what did Jesus spend the rest of the chapter doing? What does this teach us about the devil's timing? We often go through hard trials before God does something big in our lives. What would have happened if Jesus had succumbed to the temptation?

Matthew 6

This week, make it your goal to secretly do something nice for a member of your family. During the week, as people notice the kind acts, they can post public "Thank You, Anonymous" notes.

Questions:

1. Do you have a favorite place to pray? Where?
2. If God the Father knows what you need before you ask, why do we need to pray?
3. What does Jesus focus on at the start of his example prayer? Do you ever start your prayers just focusing on God and His greatness?
4. What does Jesus teach us about worrying in this passage? How could seeking Him first help us not to worry?

Matthew 7

Practice asking for forgiveness from family members if you have sinned against them this past week. The wronged person can then respond, "I forgive you as Jesus always forgives me."

Questions:

1. How does Jesus explain what a hypocrite is?
2. Jesus says to "ask and it will be given you." What are you praying for right now that is impossible to you but easy for God?
3. What does it mean that every "good tree bears good fruit but every bad tree bears bad fruit?" What are examples of "good fruit" and "bad fruit?"
4. Are you building your house on the rock or the sand? What evidence can you point to in your life?

Matthew 8

Before reading, do a game of charades acting out some of the miracles of Jesus. How many can you guess?

Questions:

1. How long did it take for Jesus to heal the leper? Can you imagine what that would have looked like?
2. What was amazing about the Centurion's story? How could you use this story to explain the idea of faith?
3. Why would a city [verse 34] want Jesus to leave when He was healing their people? Do people always accept Jesus today? Why or why not?
4. Which miracle would you have most liked to see? Why?

Matthew 10

What words do you think of when you imagine a snake? How about a dove? God says we are to be both wise as a snake and innocent as a dove? Which of those comes most naturally to you? Be creative and draw a "sn-ove" or a "do-ke" [creature that is half snake and half dove].

Questions:

1. When Jesus sent out his disciples he said they were like sheep in the midst of wolves. What does that mean?
2. Jesus says He will use us to speak about Him in front of all kinds of people, even people in authority. Do we need to worry about what we are going to say? What does Jesus say? Is that easy to do? Explain.
3. What does God know about our hair? What does that mean to you?
4. Jesus loves us, gave His life to save us and one of His names is "Prince of Peace." How is that true and yet he also says He didn't come to bring peace but a sword [verses 34-39]?

Matthew 12

Jesus talks about the importance of our speech. Go around the table and everyone take turns saying something encouraging. Remember, we reflect Jesus when we encourage others.

Questions:

1. What is the Sabbath?
2. What was Jesus trying to teach the people about the Sabbath?
3. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of after he healed a demon-possessed man?
4. Who does Jesus say is His family? Are you part of His family?

Matthew 13

Today we read about a parable of the sower. Do a science experiment and plant some flowers or grass seeds in four different types of soil: the street, rocky, weedy/thorny, and nutrient-rich. Which one grows best?

Questions:

1. Why does Jesus speak in parables?
2. What does the weedy/thorny ground represent? What does that look like in a person's life? What kind of "soil" is in your heart?
3. What is another parable that Jesus uses to describe the kingdom of heaven? What does it mean?
4. What did the people that Jesus grew up with in Nazareth think about Him? Why do you think they thought that way?

Matthew 17

It must have been amazing to see Jesus transfigured on the mountain top. Using the description in verses one through three, draw a picture of what the disciples might have seen.

Questions:

1. Who appeared to Jesus when he was on the top of the mountain?
2. What do you think they might have talked about?
3. What emotion do you think you would have had if you had been on the mountain that day?
4. Besides faith, what was needed to cast out the demon from the son? Have you ever prayed and fasted for anything?

Matthew 20

For the next 24 hours, each family member should practice putting others first in a variety of situations. How many different ways – driving, at the dinner table, in the neighborhood, at work, or within the family – can you let others "go before" you? Share your examples tomorrow.

Questions:

1. What wages did the laborers agree to work for early in the day? How much were they all paid at the end of the day?
2. How would you have felt if you were a worker hired early in the day? A worker hired late in the day? Does it seem unfair that God is so generous?
3. What did the mother of James and John want for her sons? What instruction did Jesus give for those that want to be first? How can you apply that to your life?
4. What did Jesus ask the two blind men? Does this seem odd? What does it teach us about our prayer life?

Matthew 21

This is a great chapter to act out and get the whole family involved. If you don't have a strong back you can use action figures or stuffed animals instead of family members as actors.

Questions:

1. What did the people do when Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey?
2. Why did Jesus get angry in the temple?
3. How are the two sons different? Which son are you more like? Why? Do your family members agree?
4. How is the parable of the vinedresser describing, God, Jesus, and the religious leaders of the day [hint: verse 45]?

Matthew 26

Have communion at your house today. Break the bread and drink some grape juice so the family can visually picture the Last Supper.

Questions:

1. What is the most precious thing you could offer to Jesus? Are you willing?
2. What does Peter say he will never do? What does he do? How do you think he felt?
3. What did Jesus ask three of his disciples to do for him? What happened? Have you ever prayed for one hour?
4. From his own friends criticizing Jesus for being honored by the woman's perfume to being beaten and on trial, list some other trials Jesus faced these 24 hours. What emotions do you think went through his mind?

Matthew 27

Jesus sacrificed His life for each of us, even His enemies. Discuss the sacrifices family members already make or could make for each other. What sacrifices could you make for strangers and enemies?

Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus didn't answer Pilate some of the time?
2. Who did they release instead of Jesus?
3. What did Pilate's wife think?
4. Who carried the cross for Jesus?

Matthew 28

Jesus rose on the third day, just as He promised. Each person share one promise that Jesus has made that he or she is excited about. If you can't think of any, Google "promises of Jesus."

Questions

1. What did the soldiers do when they saw the angel? To whom did the angel speak?
2. What did the chief priests do for the soldiers so they would change their "eyewitness account"?
3. What are the three instructions Jesus gave His disciples (and us)? How can you live these personally?
4. What promise did Jesus give us? How does that make you feel?