

Let's Talk: Day 29

Today's Reading: John 21:15-23

Questions:

1. How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Him? What else had Peter done that same number of times right before Jesus died? (John 18)
2. How can you show Jesus you love Him?
3. Although Peter had deserted Jesus at the cross, Jesus was entrusting Peter with "feeding the sheep" or teaching the new church. What does that teach you about God's love and forgiveness? Can you do anything that Jesus would not forgive?
4. Jesus told Peter to follow Him, even though he was promised hard trials ahead. Because Peter obeyed, he is one of the heroes of the early church. Do you think it's possible for God to really use someone in a huge way without there being difficult times? Are you willing to be one of God's heroes even if it means trials in your life?

Let's Talk: Day 30

Today's Reading: 1 John 1

This is our second book we are reading in the New Testament, but it is by the same author as the first we've read – the apostle John.

Questions:

1. What is a word that repeats several times in this chapter? What do you think it means?
2. According to this chapter, what should we do for God to forgive us?
3. Fellowship is like "active friendship." How do we have that with Jesus? How do we have that with other believers?
4. What is the message that John is declaring in this letter? (v.5) Why is this so important?

Let's Talk: Day 31

Today's Reading: 1John 2 / Family Focus: verses 3-11

Brainstorm together five rules that your family has (examples may be: no lying, take your shoes off at the door, do your homework before watching TV, etc.). How well does your family keep these rules?

Questions:

1. What does the Bible say is the evidence in our life that we know Jesus?
2. Why would God say that obeying is linked to loving? How does this also apply to your relationship with your parents?
3. The Bible is so deep yet based on the simplest concepts of which God continually reminds us. The "old commandment" referenced in verse 7 is from Leviticus 19:18. Take a minute to look it up. If we truly did this, would we need many other rules in our life? Would you need your five family rules you brainstormed?
4. What is a time in your life that you know you were walking in the light? Can you think of a time when you stumbled in the darkness?

Let's Talk: Day 32

Today's Reading: 1John 3 / Family Focus: verses 11-24 What is the best thing anyone has ever done for you? How did you feel?

Questions:

1. What is one of the key words of this passage?
2. Why would John say we shouldn't be surprised if the world hates us? How could the world hate us when all John is reminding us to do is love one another? (think of the example of Jesus)
3. How have you loved God and others in your actions the past couple of weeks?
4. God tells us to do two things: 1) believe on Jesus and 2) love one another. Pray now as a family that in the next 24 hours God shows you opportunities to do these two things. Come back and share the results at tomorrow's discussion.

Let's Talk: Day 33

Today's Reading: 1 John 4 / Family Focus: verses 11-21

Since we have been talking about love the last few days, play one of your favorite worship songs related to love, or at least name some of your favorite songs that describe your love for God or His for you.

Questions:

1. Share the results from last night's prayer request.
2. Give some examples of how God is love to you.
3. How is it impossible to truly love God and NOT love your brother or neighbor?
4. What are some things you are afraid of? How does actively loving God and others help us deal with our fears? Where are you on a scale of one [fearful] to five [perfected love]?

Let's Talk: Day 34

Today's Reading: Genesis 4 / Family Focus: verses 1-12

Today's reading was referenced in 1 John 3 earlier in our reading. It's an anti-example of showing love. Talk about how each of you best likes to receive love: words of encouragement, acts of service, getting gifts, quality time, or physical touch (take the free quiz at www.5lovelanguages.com/assessments/love/).

Questions:

1. How is Abel's sacrifice of a living creature and Cain's sacrifice of something he grew a picture of Christ's sacrifice versus man's works?
2. Why did Cain kill his brother?
3. Why do you think God often speaks to us in questions? (here is a website that lists some: <http://carolemcdonnell.blogspot.com/2008/09/questions-god-asks-in-bible.html>). Has God ever asked you a question? How did you respond?
4. What if Cain listened to God and loved rather than killed his brother? How can you imagine the rest of their lives would have played out?

Let's Talk: Day 35

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Suggested Activity:

Go serve somewhere as a family. You could help a neighbor, serve in church together, or support a local missions project.