

Let's Talk: Day 99

Today's Reading: Mark 7 / Family Focus: verses 1-13

Today we are talking about traditions. What are some of your favorite family traditions? Least favorite? What are some traditions we have at church or in American society?

Questions:

1. What did the Pharisees and Jews do before eating? Was this act wrong?
2. How did the Pharisees honor God with their lips but not their heart? Do you ever do that? (Hint: think about your priorities and motivations)
3. What traditions had become more important than God's Word? (Hint: they had clean hands but missed Jesus; see verses 10-12, too)
4. Can you think of any church or family traditions that, if you lose your priority, could ever get in the way of God's Word? How?

Let's Talk: Day 100

Today's Reading: Mark 8 / Family Focus: verses 22-25

Everything physical in this world is a picture of something spiritual (Romans 1:20). Have different family members close their eyes and try to eat their dinner or maneuver around the room. How much more difficult is it when you can't see? What might it mean to be spiritually blind and how could that affect your daily life?

Questions:

1. Who needed to be healed?
2. Who brought him? (It says "they" brought him. These are part of a nameless crowd who saw someone that needed Jesus and took the time to bring him to Jesus because he couldn't see how to get there on his own.) Who is God calling you to bring to Jesus?

3. Every detail is recorded in the Bible for a reason. Why do you think Jesus took the man out of the town?
4. Was Jesus having an off-day? Why did the man only get healed partway the first time? Why might Jesus only answer yes to your prayers some of the time?

Let's Talk: Day 101

Today's Reading: Mark 9 / Family Focus: verses 33-37

The disciples were just normal people like you and me. They daydreamed together and asked "what if" and "would you rather" questions, too. Have each member of the family answer this question: if you could be the greatest person in the world at something, what would it be?

Questions:

1. What were the disciples arguing about?
2. Why didn't the disciples tell Jesus? Did Jesus seem angry?
3. What did Jesus do to answer their question? How does that make you as a kid feel?
4. How does someone get to be "first" while being last or a servant to others? How is Jesus and His ministry on earth an example of this?

Let's Talk: Day 102

Today's Reading: Mark 10 / Family Focus: verses 17-27

What are some things you would like to do as a family this summer? If you had to give up everything else so you could do one special thing this summer what would it be? Thinking about the choices your family makes with your time and resources, what would you say are some of your family priorities?

Questions:

1. What did the rich young ruler want? Do you think he meant it? How can you tell (verses 17&20)?
2. What motivated Jesus to speak in verse 21? What did He tell the man to do? Why? Are riches bad?

3. Visualize the scene and the difference between how the man approached Jesus versus how he left Jesus. What happened to the man's heart between verse 17 and verse 22?
4. Can you think of anything in your life that you love more or trust in more than God? What about as a family? Explain. If you don't know, ask God to show you if there is.

Let's Talk: Day 103

Today's Reading: Mark 11 / Family Focus: verses 15-26

Think of the books you have read or movies you have watched. Can you remember anyone getting really angry? Why and what did that person do?

Questions:

1. What was Jesus angry about?
2. What did He do about it? Is it okay to be angry? (Ephesians 4:26)
3. With what attitude do you need to pray? Is God unable to answer our prayers without faith? Why does He ask us to have it then? (Bonus: when does God say "no?" - James 4:3)
4. Does God ever ask you to forgive someone more than you have been forgiven by Him? Why should you have a forgiving attitude before you start praying?

Let's Talk: Day 104

Today's Reading: Psalm 146 / Family Focus: verses 5-10

Today's reading is referenced in Day 101 where we read Jesus caused the blind man to see. For variety (this might appeal most to the younger kids), read Psalm 146 aloud and have your kids act it out. Everyone can create their own unique actions as you help explain the meaning of the verses.

Questions:

1. Who are people that you rely on for help? How can we rely on God?
2. What are some of the things for which the psalmist praises the Lord?

3. If Christians are supposed to be followers and imitators of Christ, how can we practically do these things in our neighborhood? Ask God to show you one thing you can do this week.
4. Did anything happen today to get you down? Have you thought how God chose you to be in His family and He will reign forever and ever? How can that help put daily disappointments in perspective?

Let's Talk: Day 105

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: What do the Pharisees and Jews do before they eat?

For an interactive family game play charades and act out the Jesus stories you read about this past week. How many can your family remember? If you could be an eye witness at any of those scenes which would you choose and why?