

Let's Talk: Day 141

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

When Paul was alive the Romans believed that Caesar (the head of Rome) was a god. To say that there was only one God and it wasn't Caesar was treason, and punishable by death. Yet look at Paul's instructions regarding government.

Questions:

1. How should we view our government and those that rule over us?
2. According to Paul, who allows our government to exist? Does it mean the authorities are always good and rule the way God would want them to? What should our attitude be about our government?
3. What does God say about paying taxes?
4. It is easy to complain about people in authority with whom we don't agree. How might God want us to pray for them instead? As a family pray for the President, Congress, and anyone else in authority God brings to your mind.

Let's Talk: Day 142

Today's Reading: Romans 14 / Family Focus: verses 13-21

Every family has their own rules on what TV shows you can watch, what video games (if any) are acceptable, appropriate clothes, age you can have a cell phone, etc. Discuss some of your family rules.

Questions:

1. What stumbling block is Paul talking about?
2. If your family is allowed to do things that your friend's family does not allow, how can you help your friend obey their family's rules? What would be the wrong thing to say or do?
3. If your family is not allowed to do things that your friend's family is allowed to do, what's the best way you can respond?

4. What ultimately should be our motivation? (verse 21)

Let's Talk: Day 143

Today's Reading: Romans 15 / Family Focus: verses 1-7

Moms and Dads are great examples of today's passage. Ask your kids if there are times they remember you parents carrying them when they were tired or sick or at the end of an all-day outing. That is the kind of attitude we should have for one another.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to be strong in this passage? How should we act strong?
2. Who are we trying to please? Can you imagine a world where everyone put other people's good ahead of their own? What would that look like?
3. Why was the Old Testament written? What have you learned from one of those stories and how has it given you hope?
4. How does receiving or accepting one another like Jesus did us bring praise to God? What does this look like in our everyday life?

Let's Talk: Day 144

Today's Reading: Romans 16 / Family Focus: verses 17-19

In Paul's final chapter to the church at Rome he sends many greetings and final warnings. If you knew you weren't going to talk to a friend for a long time, how would you finish your last letter, email or phone conversation?

Questions:

1. What does Paul warn the church to look out for? What might this look like in our church?
2. Does Paul want the church to go after and destroy these people? What should you do?
3. What should you be wise about? Are you?
4. What should you be simple about? Are you? Do you turn off the TV or computer when you know it is something that is not good for you to watch? What can you do to stay simple about evil things?

Let's Talk: Day 145

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 1 / Family Focus: verses 18-25

Paul wrote this book to the church in Corinth. He had already visited there and was now writing a letter to correct them on some doctrine and encourage them to make good choices.

Questions:

1. To lost people, what is the message of the cross? What is the message of the cross to those who have accepted Jesus as Savior?
2. How does God make the wisdom of the world foolish? [What powerful ruler do you know would die for a thankless, selfish people?] What is the wisdom of the world?
3. What would have been a seemingly "wiser" move by our all-powerful God to get His message of salvation across to the world rather than use imperfect sinners as His messengers? Why didn't He do that?
4. The foolishness of God is _____ than men? The weakness of God is _____ than men? Do you believe this? How can you live like you believe it? Who is the last person you told about the cross and what Jesus did for them?

Let's Talk: Day 146

Today's Reading: Psalm 69 / Family Focus: verses 7-14

Today's passage is from Romans 15 on Day 144. The Psalm is written by David and may prophetically indicate some of Jesus' thoughts on the cross. When you are having a really hard day how would you describe it? Do you want to be by yourself, scream, do something active, or something else?

Questions:

1. What are some of David's troubles? Have you ever been teased? What was that like?
2. What is David's response? What is your response usually? How can you be more like David?

3. We know the rest of David's story. What happened to David and do you know how long he reigned? Did God deliver him?
4. David had to wait many years to be king and even as king he went through many dark trials. How can you trust God even when your circumstances don't change?

Let's Talk: Day 147

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: What is the message of the cross to those who don't believe?

Ask your kids what has stood out to them in their reading of Romans. If they have made a decision to follow Jesus and make Him the Lord of their life, help them write out their testimony. As a family, challenge each other to share your testimony with at least one person this next week.