

Let's Talk: Day 281

Today's Reading: Philippians 4 / Family Focus: verses 4-9

Ask your children to describe times when they may feel nervous or scared. Then tell them about times you may get nervous. Discuss the times your family gets nervous. Brainstorm ways they can feel better (pray, think through entire situation, make a different decision, etc.).

Questions:

1. What should we be anxious for? What does the peace of God surpass?
2. What is the first thing we can do when we are nervous? Take time to say a prayer and ask for God's peace.
3. What are some things on which we should think? Can you give some specific examples from your life that fit this criteria found in verse 8?
4. Paul tells the church to do the things that they saw in and heard about from him. Although no one is perfect, whose Christian example can you follow?

Let's Talk: Day 282

Today's Reading: Colossians 1 / Family Focus: verses 15-20

Give each person in your family a piece of paper and crayons or markers. Each person will draw a picture of five different objects that were created by God. Then share with each other the pictures of God's creation. Did any of you draw the same item? Why did each person pick the objects they drew?

Questions:

1. Who created everything?
2. What is Jesus the head of?
3. Why is it important to know and believe Jesus created all things and is the head of the Church?

4. What can you do this week to show Jesus your thankfulness for all He has done for you?

Let's Talk: Day 283

Today's Reading: Colossians 2/ Family Focus: verses 13-17

Think about different rules or laws that you think should be abolished. Then ask your children what rules they believe should be taken away. Today we are going to read about how Jesus died on the cross to replace the Old Testament "rules" – and associated judgments – with grace.

Questions:

1. What were we dead in?
2. What was nailed to the cross with Jesus?
3. What does God say about people judging you?
4. What were some of the food and drink restrictions or festivals of the Old Testament that are spoken about in verse 16? Discuss any restrictions on food, drink, and festivals in today's times.

Let's Talk: Day 284

Today's Reading: Colossians 3 / Family Focus: verses 8-17

Today we are reading about the qualities of a Christian. Have each family member tell the Christian quality that they believe they exhibit most in everyday life (kindness, love, humility, etc.). Which one of these qualities does your family believe is the most important? Why?

Questions:

1. Name two characteristics we should "put off?" Name two traits we should "put on?"
2. What is most important to "put on" above all others traits?
3. To whom should we do all things? How can we go to school "to Jesus" or play soccer "to Jesus?"
4. What role, if any, does music play in your Christian life? Do you have a favorite Christian song?
5. What is a way that you are made new in God and have changed your behavior or attitude?

Let's Talk: Day 285

Today's Reading: Colossians 4 / Family Focus: verses 2-6

Try this salt experiment: get an ice cube (one for each child) and a salt shaker for this discussion. Ask each child to put salt on their cube. What happens to the ice cube? Salt makes the freezing point lower and therefore melts the ice. Now try to stack your cubes. A little salt makes the stacking possible. Likewise, a little "salt" in our words makes our communication more effective.

Questions:

1. What are we asked to do earnestly and how are we to do it?
2. What did Paul want the church to pray about for him? Where was Paul writing from? If you were Paul would you have had the same prayer request?
3. What should our speech be spoken with? What does that look like?
4. What does it mean to "walk in wisdom" or "redeem the time?" Is it still okay to have fun?

Let's Talk: Day 286

Today's Reading: Psalms 33 / Family Focus: verses 1-5

Watch this video on YouTube about the 10-stringed harp: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9VNYYcJQhA>. What do you think of the song played? Discuss with your family each member's favorite instruments and how it could be used to praise God. Today's reading was referenced in Philippians 4 on day 282.

Questions:

1. How many strings does the harp in verse two have?
2. What is always right? Do you think most people in the world believe this? Why or why not?
3. What kind of song are we supposed to sing to the Lord? How can we do that? Make a family praise song to Jesus right now by having each family member come up with one line.
4. The Psalmist says the earth is filled with what? Where do you see this?

Let's Talk: Day 287

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: Who did Paul send to the church at Thessalonica to find out how they were doing?

This week we have continued discussing qualities of a Christian. Make a calendar of each day of the week and select a different quality on which your family can focus each day. Next week try to find a way to live out that quality throughout the day. Share your progress at the end of the week with your family.