

Let's Talk: Day 288

Today's Reading: 1Thessalonians 1 / Family Focus: all verses

Today we are talking about examples. Discuss with your kids who is popular in the media right now. Are they a good example or a bad example? What makes them influential? The Bible says we can influence people by our example as well.

Questions:

1. Like he did with the church of Philippi, Paul thanks God for the church in Thessalonica. Who at church are you thankful for?
2. How were the people in Thessalonica examples to Macedonia and Achaia? What happened in these two cities as a result?
3. In what and with what did the church receive the Word from Paul? Is living a Christian life easy?
4. Do you think anyone could turn to Jesus by the example you lead? What might God be asking you to do?

Let's Talk: Day 289

Today's Reading: 1Thessalonians 2 / Family Focus: verses 9-13

Paul says he is like a dad to the church in Thessalonica. Name five things you like about one or both of your parents.

Questions:

1. What did Paul do besides preach the gospel?
2. Why did he work so hard?
3. What family relationship did Paul say he was to the church? Is there anyone beyond your physical dad that you think of as a father spiritually?
4. How does Paul say we should walk or live? How do we do that?

Let's Talk: Day 290

Today's Reading: 1Thessalonians 3 / Family Focus: all verses

Have you ever missed someone so badly you just couldn't wait to see them? For us, our friend is usually just one text message, Skype, or phone call away. Paul, however, had to be much more patient as he had to physically send his friends to check on the new churches and then wait for their return.

Questions:

1. Who did Paul send to check on how the church at Thessalonica was doing?
2. What report did this man give to Paul upon his return?
3. What did Paul tell the church would happen to him? Have any trials happened to you or someone you know because they are a Christian?
4. What things does Paul pray for the church of Thessalonica? Pick one of those things and pray for yourself and/or family.

Let's Talk: Day 291

Today's Reading: 1Thessalonians 4 / Family Focus: verses 9-12

In three minutes, list as many can you think of to show love to your neighbors. Today's reading shows us the influence of love on our community.

Questions:

1. What is the key word for the first couple of verses in today's reading?
2. How do we learn to love each other? How does God teach us?
3. How should we run our life and what should we do with our hands? What might that look like in your family?
4. What are the two reasons given that we should do this? How can working with our hands and living a quiet life be an influence on our neighbors?

Let's Talk: Day 292

Today's Reading: 1Thessalonians 5 / Family Focus: verses 11-24

At the end of his letter to the church in Thessalonica, Paul gives several "one liner" instructions. What kinds of advice do your parents give you when you go to a friend's house or when you go to school?

Questions:

1. How does Paul say we should treat someone who has been evil to us? Have you ever tried this? If so what happened?
2. How can we always rejoice and pray? Is it possible?
3. What is one instruction that Paul has listed that is easy for you?
4. What is one instruction that Paul has listed that is hard for you? Have family members share how they try to fulfill this instruction and pray together for the strength to live it this week.

Let's Talk: Day 293

Today's Reading: Proverbs 17 / Family Focus: verse 3

On Day 289 in 1Thessalonians 1, Paul told the church that afflictions were to be expected. Today's verse also shares the benefits of trials and compares it to refining metals. Watch this South African gold refinery video to see the processes involved: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQ37SFKahcD&feature=related>

Questions:

1. What makes gold and silver more pure?
2. Who tests and purifies our hearts? How do you think He does this?
3. What Old Testament Bible characters can you think of that went through a hard trial but the end result blessed many people?
4. Can you think of a time that God tested your heart or the heart of someone you know? What happened? Why does God do this?

Let's Talk: Day 294

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: Who was made a little lower than the angels?

We have been reading Paul's letters to the churches the past couple of weeks. Ask your family to pick one of the missionaries your church supports and write an encouraging note to them.