

## Let's Talk: Day 316

Today's Reading: Hebrews 13 / Family Focus: verses 5-8

Make a list or draw a picture of what you would like for gifts this year. When everyone is done crumple up the paper and throw it away. How would you feel if you didn't get anything you want this year? The Bible tells us to be happy with what we have. Are you content or are you usually wanting more?

Questions:

1. According to verse five, why should we be content? What does Jesus' quote really mean in our lives?
2. Who is our helper? What attitude should that give us? If you get scared or lonely what should you remember?
3. When is Jesus the same? Why does that matter?
4. How content are you? Do you think you could live your life never getting a new toy? How often do you thank Jesus for always being with you?

## Let's Talk: Day 317

Today's Reading: James 1 / Family Focus: verses 22-25

Ask your family to play "Simon Says." The first time you play, have them only listen to what you say but not do anything. The second time, have them listen then do the actions "Simon" says. Which game is more fun? The Bible tells us to not just listen to the Word but also follow through and apply the instructions just like in "Simon Says."

Questions:

1. What do we do when we are only hearers of the Word? How does that happen?
2. When hearers don't act, it is like a man observing himself in a mirror and then doing what? What does that example mean for us spiritually?

3. Has God shown you something in the Bible that you know to do, but haven't done yet? How can you begin doing it today?
4. How have you been blessed by being a doer of the Word? Who else do you know that applies what they hear from God's Word? Encourage them today!

### **Let's Talk: Day 318**

Today's Reading: James 2 / Family Focus: verses 21-26

Draw two faces: a happy face and a sad face. Then ask your children these scenarios (you can create more) and have them raise either the happy or sad face to show how each situation would make them feel. (1) Invited to go to the zoo but then the other person forgets they asked you. (2) Plan a trip to see a baseball game with your best friend. When someone tells us something and then it doesn't happen it make us feel sad and disappointed. That is the same way God feels when we say we believe in Him but don't do anything to show it.

Questions:

1. What did Abraham believe in verse 23?
2. How do we see Abraham's faith in God by his works in verse 21?
3. What is faith without works? What does that mean?
4. God sees the faith in our heart but the world can only see our faith by our actions. What actions could your friends and family point to in your life that shows your faith?

### **Let's Talk: Day 319**

Today's Reading: James 3 / Family Focus: verses 3-12

Go online and find two pictures: a ship's rudder and a horse's bit. Although very small, these two devices completely control both the ship and the horse. This is similar to our tongue. Compared to the rest of our body, it is quite small but it has tremendous power to bless or hurt. What type of "tongue" do you have?

Questions:

1. Who can tame the tongue?

2. Give an example of how our tongue can start a little fire that can quickly spread like an uncontrollable forest fire.
3. What does verse 10 say should not happen? Why not?
4. Have you ever said anything you wish you could “unsay?” Why do we struggle with our words? What should we do when we are struggling?

### Let’s Talk: Day 320

Today’s Reading: James 4 / Family Focus: 10-12

Watch the YouTube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2nLyfzBfKw> of Chris Tomlin singing “Here I am to Worship.” Then read the passage remembering that God loves a humble attitude. One way we can show our humility is to worship God.

Questions:

1. What will the Lord do when we humble ourselves to Him? What might that look like?
2. What should we **not** do to a brother?
3. Have you had a time when you judged someone? How did you feel afterward? How did they feel?
4. Notice the verse says not to judge a person; it doesn’t say a Christian can’t judge what is right or wrong. What is the difference between judging a person and judging what is right or wrong?

### Let’s Talk: Day 321

Today’s Reading: Genesis 22 / Family Focus: all verses

Today’s reading was referenced on Day 319 in James 2. For a different way to hear today’s passage, watch this link of the story of Genesis 22: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xy8B\\_bFJp-g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xy8B_bFJp-g).

Questions:

1. How long did it take for Abraham to begin to obey God’s command? Do you ever delay doing things you are supposed to do but don’t want to do? Did Abraham?
2. How do we know from verse five that Abraham believed Isaac would somehow return with him down the mountain?

3. Who called out to Abraham to stop the sacrifice? What did this trial illustrate to God? Is there anything more important than your relationship with and obedience to God?
4. Look back over this chapter and find some ways that Abraham pictures God and Isaac pictures Jesus (Moriah is Jerusalem. Given God's consistency, it's possible that Abraham offered Isaac on the same hill where Jesus was crucified).

### **Let's Talk: Day 322**

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: Who did God appear to in a dream in Matthew 2? (Hint: it wasn't just one person)

Look up some verses in Proverbs that instruct us how to use our tongue wisely and for blessing. Brainstorm a couple ways you as a family can bless someone with your words. Then go do it!