

Let's Talk: Day 323

Today's Reading: James 5 / Family Focus: verses 7-11

Ask each family member to draw a picture of how they think it will look when Jesus returns to Earth. Until that time, we are to wait patiently for our Lord. How are your pictures similar and how are they different?

Questions:

1. What illustration did James give us to understand waiting?
2. What makes a farmer patient? What can we do to help us stay patient? How do we do that?
3. What should we not do? Why? What other example can we study to understand patience?
4. God tells us no one will know the time when Jesus returns but to always be ready. How are you ready for Christ's return? What can you do to get ready?

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Today's Reading: Jude 1 / Family Focus: verses 20-25

As a Christian we have to be listening to the Holy Spirit to know when we share the love of God and when we share the consequences of sin. God is both loving and a judge. What are some of the other attributes or names of God?

Questions:

1. What four things are we supposed to do in verses 20 and 21? Pick one and explain how you do that.
2. What can God keep us from doing? How?
3. Why do you think prayer is so important for Christians?
4. How does Jude end his letter? Do your prayers ever include words like this? How can we make sure we spend time praising God too?

Let's Talk: Day 325

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

Watch the video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o> telling the story of today's passage.

Questions:

1. What does the name Jesus mean?
2. What did Joseph do when he woke up from his dream?
3. What do you think would have happened if Joseph had chosen not to marry Mary?
4. God spoke to Joseph through an angel at just the right time. Have you ever heard from God? What was it about?

Let's Talk: Day 326

Today's Reading: Matthew 2 / Family Focus: verses 7-15

Many of us have heard about the birth of Jesus and arrival of the wise men so many times that the wonder of the story has dulled. We read it from the "outsider's perspective" where all the points of God's intervention are clear. Imagine the perspective of the characters in the story – Mary, Joseph, a wise man. It's a supernatural action thriller!

Questions:

1. Where did Herod send the wise men and why did he say he wanted them to report back to him? What did he really want to do with the baby?
2. An angel appeared to Joseph after a visit from the wise men and told them to travel to what country? Why?
3. Why do you think Herod was so scared of a young kid?
4. If you could be a character from today's story, who would you be and why?

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Today's Reading: Matthew 3 / Family Focus: verses 13-17

If applicable, share with one another the details of your baptism. You may want to discuss how you felt before and after or look at any

pictures that you may have of the special occasion. What a joyful day when Jesus was baptized; His Father couldn't contain His love for His son.

Questions:

1. Where was John baptizing people?
2. What did the voice from Heaven say when Jesus came out of the water?
3. What does baptism for Christians represent (Romans 6:1-4)?
4. Does a person need to get baptized to go to heaven? Why or why not?

Let's Talk: Day 328

Today's Reading: Isaiah 7 / Family Focus: verses 13-14

Today's reading was referenced on Day 326 in Matthew 1. God loves us so much that he sent His Son to come to Earth to die on the cross for our sins. Take time to watch this video, Emmanuel by Hillsong: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-Nxo4OgRJ4>. Thank God for His amazing Son and sacrificial gift!

Questions:

1. Whose house is warned that they should be listening and hear God?
2. What is the sign they will see?
3. What is the best present you have ever received? God sent us Jesus and the gift of salvation, which is the best possible gift we could ever receive.
4. What does "Immanuel" mean? (Look in Matthew 1 if you are unsure) What does that mean to you practically?

Let's Talk: Day 329

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: Name one temptation with which the devil challenged Jesus.

This week, think about someone who may need to hear about Jesus. Invite them to come to church services with you.