

Let's Talk: Day 71-One Story

The Pillar of Cloud & Fire – Relying on Human Guidance vs. God's Guidance

Today's Reading: Numbers 9:15-23 & 10:29-36; Isaiah 48:17-19

Play "Follow the Leader," but whoever is the leader has to stick a bunch of cotton balls on their face with Vaseline to represent the "cloud" that led the nation of Israel.

Questions:

1. How did Israel know where to go? How did this sign change between day and night?
2. How long would Israel stay in one place? Would it vary? How do you know when God wants you to move or do something?
3. What item is placed inside the tabernacle but then leads Israel when it is on the move? Who do you think that item represents for us? Why?
4. God wanted to lead Israel. According to Isaiah, what is one of the long-term blessings if you choose to follow God? Do you know of any relatives from generations ago who followed God and now you are the fruit of that blessing?

Let's Talk: Day 72

Today's Reading: Numbers 11 & 12; Philippians 2:14-16

Put a tablecloth on the floor, pop a bunch of popcorn and spread it over the tablecloth. Pretend to be the Israelites collecting manna. Can you imagine doing this every day for 40 years? Make it more challenging and collect the manna without using your hands.

Questions:

1. Describe the attitude of the people of Israel in today's reading in Numbers. God just miraculously delivered them out of slavery. How could they act this way?

2. The people were given the responsibility to collect manna for their food. How did they feel about that? Why? Is there ever a repetitive task that you are given that you don't like? How could you respond according to Philippians 2 rather than the way the Israelites did?
3. What did God tell Moses to do in order to share the responsibility of leading Israel? What problem did Aaron and Miriam have? Did they have the right attitude? How do you know?
4. How do the Old Testament readings today apply to our Philippians 2 passage? How are we like lights in the world when we apply these verses?

Let's Talk: Day 73

The 12 Spies & 40 Days of Searching – The Fears of the 10 Spies vs. the Faith of Caleb/Joshua

Today's Reading: Numbers 13; Deuteronomy 1:19-28; Joshua 14:6-9

Set out two baskets, one labeled with "Giants" and one with "Milk & Honey." Have family members write/draw a picture of their "fears" and "good things God wants to give you" and put them in the baskets.

Questions:

1. What instructions did God give Moses? How long were the spies gone? What was the report of the spies concerning the land?
2. Who was quick to believe God to take possession of the Promised Land? What was the response of the rest of the spies?
3. Who do you identify with most in this passage: Moses, Caleb/Joshua or the other spies? Why? What do you think was different about Caleb/Joshua?
4. How is Caleb rewarded for his faith in God? What do you think he thought during the 40 years in the wilderness? If you are ever discouraged by your current situation, how can this story support your strength for the long run?

Let's Talk: Day 74

The 12 Spies & 40 Years of Wandering – Israel's Unbelief & God's Judgment

Today's Reading: Numbers 14; Deuteronomy 1:29-46; Hebrews 3

Have everyone share their favorite place in the house to rest. Write each place on a paper and put them in a bowl. Pick one and that's where you will have your family time.

Questions:

1. What do the people of Israel want to do? How does Joshua respond? Then what do the people want to do to Joshua?
2. What is Israel's punishment for not believing God? What is Caleb's reward for believing Him?
3. Are you more like the Israelites who doubt God in difficult situations or like Caleb and Joshua who encourage the group to trust God?
4. After God gave His consequences for their unbelief, what did the Israelites try to do? What happened? What does that tell you about listening to God the first time?

Let's Talk: Day 75

Korah, Dathan & Abiram – Complaining About Moses & God's Judgment

Today's Reading: Numbers 16; Psalm 106:9-18; Jude 10-11

God caused an earthquake in today's reading. Go to <http://www.iris.edu/seismon/> to view all the recent earthquakes of the world and their magnitude.

Questions:

1. What was Korah, Dathan and Abiram's problem with Moses? What problem did they really have with God?
2. How did Moses answer them? When people question you about God, what can you learn from the way Moses responded?
3. Did these people think they were going to be held accountable for their actions? What did God do?
4. The day following this incident, how did the people act toward Moses? Does that surprise you given the supernatural act they had just witnessed? If you follow God, should you expect attacks? How will God take care of you?

Let's Talk: Day 76

Aaron's Rod – God Chooses the Tribe of Levi & Fruitfulness Proves God's Choice

Today's Reading: Numbers 17 & 1:47-54; Luke 6:43-45

Draw a picture of the story in Numbers 17. Can you retell the story with a modern day prop instead of a staff?

Questions:

1. What sign did God use to show which tribe was to serve God in the tabernacle and be the priests?
2. Aaron's rod not only blossomed, but also did what? What does that tell you about God?
3. What is the Levites' job and where do they camp? What comparison could you make between Levites and Christians? How can Levites and Christians be held accountable to their job?
4. We are known by our fruit. Our fruit is a reflection of our heart. What are you known for? If you want to be known for different fruit, what kind of heart change do you need to make?

Let's Talk: Day 77

Today's Reading: Weekly day OFF

Weekly Review: Think back on this week's reading. What story stands out to you and why? As a family, pick a verse to meditate on or memorize (suggestions: Leviticus 19:18, Numbers 11:22, Philippians 2:14).

Preview Family Activity: Last week we discussed "Responsibility." This week we follow that with "Accountability." When our kids grow in their responsibility, they will also be accountable for their actions. To illustrate this you could use the example of a balance sheet with family income and expenses (you decide if you want to use real numbers). For little ones you can simplify and have them pay for their food and room, etc., with play money. Show them how, as parents, you have to be "accountable" for your money—what comes in and what goes out. This week consider how Israel was (or wasn't) accountable to what God had taught them.