

Let's Talk: Day 183-One Story

Elisha & his Prayer – Seeing the Invisible Spiritual Realm All Around Us
Today's Reading: 2Kings 6:1-23; 2Kings 2:11; 2Chronicles 32:6-8

Fill the sink with water and gather several objects, including a knife of some kind and a stick. Predict and test whether they each sink or float. Did the knife (representing the ax) sink or float? How about the stick?

Questions:

1. What are some of the miracles you read about today?
2. If you had been the servant with Elisha in the city that was surrounded by their enemy, what might you have been thinking? After Elisha prayed, what did the servant see?
3. Have you ever thought what you would see if God opened your eyes in the same way? Do you think there are angels near you today? How might that change your perspective on the day and give you courage?
4. At what other time do we read about a fiery chariot? Have you ever imagined God's angels this way? How does this compare with the way society generally describes angels?

Let's Talk: Day 184

Elisha & the Famine – The Four Lepers' Decision in a Famine & Elisha's Death

Today's Reading: 2Kings 6:24-33; 2Kings 7; 2Kings 13:14-21

Go here to find out how to make a miniature bow and arrow with a popsicle stick, dental floss and q-tip! <http://thebroodinghen.blogspot.com/2010/06/tiny-bow-arrow.html>

Questions:

1. How does the Bible describe the severity of the famine? What horrendous deal did the woman make with her friend and what happened?

2. Did the king turn to God for help? What did he try to do to Elisha? How did Elisha thwart the king's plan?
3. What did the four lepers do? What was their attitude? If you had been one of the lepers what would you have done?
4. How did God deliver the city? Based on yesterday's reading, where do you think the noises that the army heard came from? How did God use the least likely people to show His deliverance? How can God use you today?

Let's Talk: Day 185

Jehu (Northern King 28 years) – Jehu Kills Ahab's Family according to Elijah's Prophecy

Today's Reading: 2Kings 9*; 2Kings 10; Hosea 1:2-5

Play duck, duck, goose. But instead, say "soldier, soldier, King of Israel!" Then run quickly!!

Questions:

1. Who was anointed king of Israel and what was his job?
2. What happened to Jezebel? How did her wickedness eventually catch up to her?
3. Why do you think it was important to completely eliminate Ahab's line? How did Jehu trick the worshippers of Baal to reveal themselves? What happened to them?
4. Why do you think there are so many battles in the Old Testament and more mercy and "turning the other cheek" in the New Testament?

* CAUTION: Parents of younger children should always share the truth but may want to use discretion in explaining the specifics detailed in this chapter.

Let's Talk: Day 186

Athaliah (Southern Queen 6 years) & Joash (Southern King 41 years) – Leaders & Following God

Today's Reading: 2Kings 11; 2Chronicles 24; Deuteronomy 28:25-26

Play hide and seek in the house. Do you think anyone could successfully hide for six years like Joash did?

Questions:

1. What heroic thing did Jehosheba do?
2. What do you think the first six years of Joash's life was like? How do you think that might have influenced him as an adult? What are some big influencers on your life right now?
3. How did the priest Jehoiada orchestrate Joash taking over the throne?
4. What is the first thing that Joash did as king? When Jehoiada died, how did Joash change? What does that tell you about Joash's personal relationship with God? Does your relationship with God depend on another person influencing you?

Let's Talk: Day 187

S. King Amaziah (Southern King 29 years) – Losing Money & the Right Attitude toward Wealth

Today's Reading: 2Kings 14:1-4; 2Chronicles 25; Deuteronomy 8:18

Draw an outline of a heart. Draw things that bring you closer to God on the inside and things that can tempt you away from God on the outside (TV, video games, friends, toys, etc). These other things may not be bad, but just shouldn't take top priority in your heart.

Questions:

1. How does God characterize Jehoaddan? What are three words God might use to describe you?
2. Describe the life of King Amaziah? How did he sometimes make a good choice but ultimately didn't choose to follow God?
3. How was Amaziah overly confident in himself? How did that hurt him? Did God tell him to fight this battle? Do you ever get into arguments or fights that God has not asked you to engage in? Give an example.
4. Did Amaziah follow Deuteronomy 8? Where does the power to get you wealth come from? How can your life show that?

Let's Talk: Day 188

Jonah Flees & Prays – God Calls Jonah during the Reign of Jeroboam II (Northern King 41 years)

Today's Reading: 2Kings 14:23-29; Jonah 1; Jonah 2

Has anyone in your household had a “time out” like Jonah did, for being disobedient? Where is the best place to be in a time out? The worst? How does the belly of a giant fish compare?

Questions:

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go? Where did Jonah decide to go instead? Look these two locations up on a map. What was Jonah’s attitude towards God’s directions?
2. What situations did God put Jonah in as a result of his disobedience? In the midst of these circumstances, how was God showing Jonah mercy?
3. How were the sailors affected by Jonah’s disobedience? How have you been affected by someone else’s bad choices? Have you ever caused someone else to hurt because you were disobedient?
4. Why do you think God caused the storm and then the great fish to swallow him? Can you think of any crazy circumstances you have lived through that “looking back” you see God’s hand? At this point in our reading, what is Jonah’s attitude?

Let’s Talk: Day 189

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 from the week to meditate on or memorize.

Summer is about half over. Are you spending time together as a family? Go for a picnic lunch or dinner this weekend and discuss as a family how you want to spend the last half of your summer.