

Let's Talk: Day 197-One Story

Hezekiah (Southern King 29 years) – God Extends Hezekiah's Life, Isaiah's Regret, & Babylon

Today's Reading: 2Kings 20; Isaiah 57:1; 2Chronicles 32:24-33

Write everyone's names on pieces of paper. Blindly choose a name. If the person you picked were to pass away, what good things would you want the world to remember about them? After everyone has finished, share what you would like to be said about yourself at your funeral.

Questions:

1. What happened to Hezekiah? What did he ask of God?
2. How did God answer Hezekiah's prayer?
3. What did Hezekiah show the rulers of Babylon? What does Isaiah prophesy as a result? Why do you think Hezekiah did this?
4. Do you think it was a good or bad thing that Hezekiah lived several years beyond when God said He would? Have you ever prayed a prayer that maybe wasn't good for you?

Let's Talk: Day 198

Manasseh (Southern King 55 years) – Manasseh's Sin, Judgment, & Repentance

Today's Reading: 2Kings 21:1-16; 2Chronicles 33; Ezekiel 18:21-32

Manasseh was unlike his father, but his son was just like him. Each person share which parent you are most like or unlike and why.

Questions:

1. What were some of the bad things that king Manasseh did? How can one leader influence a whole nation? Can you see that happening today? If so, how?
2. What judgment did God proclaim on Judah because of the evil of the day? Did this judgment happen right away? Why do you think that is?

3. When did Manasseh humble himself and why? How did his actions change?
4. What is God's perspective on the wicked when they repent and change their ways? Do you think God likes to punish the wicked?

Let's Talk: Day 199

Josiah [Southern King 31 years] – God Calls Josiah & Jeremiah to Influence a Sinful Nation

Today's Reading: 2Chronicles 34:1-7; Jeremiah 1; Jeremiah 25:3-9

God shows that He uses people of all ages to accomplish His plan. Think about four general age groups: child, teen, young adult and older adult. What unique advantages do you have in each of these age groups? How can God use this?

Questions:

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? What do you think you would do if you were a king at his age?
2. How old was he when he began to seek God? What do you think this looks like practically? How do you seek God?
3. Because Jeremiah was called to be a prophet when he was a young, what was his fear? What does God say about being a youth?
4. How does God say the people will respond to the message God has told Jeremiah to give? What encouragement does God give? How does Jeremiah show us success in God's eyes isn't about our ability to make people listen?

Let's Talk: Day 200

Josiah [Southern King 31 years] – Josiah Discovers the Bible & Humbles Himself Before God

Today's Reading: 2Chronicles 34:8-28; 2Kings 23:1-27; Zephaniah 1:1-6

As a family, discuss what you all agree to promise to do to please God. Consider including how you will treat each other, prayer, bible reading, church attendance, service and tithing. Write a covenant and sign it. Then have someone hide this in the house and the rest of the family has to find it.

Questions:

1. What did Hilkiah the high priest find? Can you imagine losing this? What does that tell you about the spiritual state of the country? How long do you think it was lost?
2. Why did the king tear his clothes after he was read the Book of the Law? What is your response when you realize you have been making choices God wouldn't want you to make?
3. How does God respond to Josiah's humility? How does this show both God's mercy and his righteous judgment?
4. Even though Josiah turned to God and encouraged the people to do the same, did they? How are hard habits hard to break? What did God prophesy against these people through Zephaniah?

Let's Talk: Day 201

Josiah [Southern King 31 years] – Josiah's Passover, Dying in the Wrong Battle, & Jehoahaz

Today's Reading: 2Chronicles 35; Proverbs 26:17; 2Chronicles 36:1-4

As a family re-enact the battle scene of today's reading. Be creative and create "instant replays" or "super slo-mo" cameras.

Questions:

1. How did Josiah help the people celebrate Passover? What does 2Chronicles 35 say about this Passover compared to other ones during the reign of the kings?
2. What mistake did Josiah make? How does his choice illustrate Proverbs 26:17?
3. Have you ever fought a battle that really wasn't yours to fight? What happened?
4. What happened to Josiah? How was Josiah able to follow God so zealously when so many kings before him did not? What do you think made him different? Do you have this quality?

Let's Talk: Day 202

Jehoiakim (Southern King 11 years) – Jeremiah's Message to Jehoiakim vs. Hananiah's Message
Today's Reading: 2Kings 23:31-37; Jeremiah 26; Jeremiah 28

The Lord asked Jeremiah to repeat every single word He said. Play a game where you try to repeat EXACTLY what someone else says. Try using verses from the bible to repeat.

Questions:

1. Who was Jehoahaz and what happened to him? Where did he end up living? Who was made king after Jehoahaz? What kind of king was he? Hint: You might want to make a family tree or king succession line to keep track of today's reading
2. What did God say through the prophet Jeremiah to the people? How did the people respond? Imagine being the prophet Jeremiah. What thoughts and feelings do you think you would have had if you were him?
3. Has God ever asked you to deliver a difficult message to someone? What can you learn from Jeremiah?
4. Explain the yoke illustration. Hananiah spoke words that the people wanted to hear but they weren't true. Can you think of an example of someone today speaking persuasive words that people want to hear but they are false?

Let's Talk: Day 203

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.

Do something on your summer bucket list this weekend. Can you invite an extended family member to do it with you?