

Let's Talk: Day 232-One Story

Haggai & Zechariah – God Uses Haggai & Zechariah to Restart the Temple Rebuilding Project

Today's Reading: Ezra 5:1-2; Haggai 1; Zechariah 1:1-6

Walk together throughout the house and discuss any projects that have been started but not completed. Or is there one that you have talked about doing for a long time but not ever started? Decide what one project you can work together on to complete.

Questions:

1. Why did the people start building the temple again?
2. What did God say through Haggai? How did He compare where the people were living with God's dwelling?
3. How can our priority to God and what we give to Him affect what we have?
4. What did God say through Zechariah? Has God ever spoken to you through the words of a friend or message? If so, explain.

Let's Talk: Day 233

Zerubbabel – The Jewish Temple Is Rebuilt Just as Wisdom Builds the House

Today's Reading: Ezra 5; Ezra 6; Proverbs 24:3-6

Build something together. If you have younger kids, use Legos or blocks. If you are older, see how high a house you can build with a deck of cards.

Questions:

1. What did Tattenai do to try to stop the building again? How did the Jews respond this time and how did they use the law in their favor? How did King Darius confirm the decree first issued by Cyrus?

2. The Jews were surrounded by people who were against them, but eventually the Jews trusted God to take care of them. How did God abundantly supply beyond their need in this case?
3. We read these stories of God's power over and over again in the Bible, but how often have you relied on God to take care of you? Why do you think people rely on themselves and either forget or choose to ignore God?
4. What is wisdom? Why is it important? How much does your family value it? How about your culture?

Let's Talk: Day 234

Ezra – The Second Return of People From Captivity to Rebuild the People's Spiritual Lives

Today's Reading: Ezra 7; Ezra 8:21-36; Ezra 9:1-11

The letter that Ezra brought with him from the king was a huge encouragement to the people. Ask the family members if they have a letter they have kept that is encouraging to them. If so, share with the family why it is special. Take a few moments and write a letter of encouragement to someone you think needs it.

Questions:

1. Who was Ezra's great-great-grandfather?
2. God gives an important key found in Ezra 7:10 on why He could use Ezra. What action words do you find in this verse? How do we prepare ourselves to seek God?
3. What did the letter from the king say and how would this have encouraged the people?
4. What sin did the people commit when they returned to the land? How did Ezra pray? How seriously do you take it when you sin or find out about sin?

Let's Talk: Day 235

Nehemiah – The Third Return of People From Captivity to Rebuild Jerusalem's Walls & Prayer

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 1; Nehemiah 2; Matthew 6:7-8

Look up what it means to be a cupbearer for a king. Pick a king and cupbearer and act out a scenario where the king would have been poisoned.

Questions:

1. What did Nehemiah do when he first heard of the current state of Jerusalem? When you hear bad news, what is your first response?
2. Nehemiah was broken for something that didn't personally affect him. Is your heart broken for God's people? For poverty? For the things that God cares about? How can your family grow in caring for the things that He cares about?
3. Approximately four months go by between when Nehemiah heard of the state of Jerusalem and when he had the chance to do something about it. How can you tell he had been planning for that moment? Are you willing to wait for four months for God to answer your prayers? Longer?
4. What is the first thing Nehemiah did when he got to Jerusalem? How did he cast the vision for the project? Who do you know who is a good leader to gather a group and get a project done? What makes that person a good leader?

Let's Talk: Day 236

Nehemiah – Rebuilding Jerusalem's Walls & Walls as a Symbol of Emotional Control

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 3; Nehemiah 4; Proverbs 25:28

In today's reading, families worked together to complete a project. As a neighborhood, Grace Group or in some community, plan a project together. What challenges do you think you might face? Set a date to complete it.

Questions:

1. How did the walls get rebuilt? What do you imagine were some of the conversations people had as families with different jobs stood next to each other?
2. Nehemiah not only mentions the names of the people that built the wall, but he also lists what they did. What would God be able to write about you? Where and what are you building in God's kingdom?

3. When they saw the wall going up, what did Sanballat and Tobiah do? How did Nehemiah respond?
4. Proverbs likens a city with no walls to what? How are your walls? What can you do to make sure they stay repaired?

Let's Talk: Day 237

Nehemiah – Nehemiah Experiences Opposition & Needs Strong Hands to Continue

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 5; Nehemiah 6; Zechariah 8:7-15

Build up your finger muscles by thumb wrestling. Each time you win, say "Oh God, strengthen my hands!" and name one good thing you can do for God and someone else with your hands.

Questions:

1. Who did Nehemiah have to correct in chapter 5 and why? How did the people respond?
2. What was another tactic that Sanballat tried to stop Nehemiah? How did Nehemiah respond?
3. Nehemiah was able to identify distractions in his life and avoid them. Is there anything in your life trying to distract you from the job God has given you? If yes, what can you do to stop the distraction?
4. What did Nehemiah pray to God? How did he pray what was spoken in Zechariah 8? Do you ever pray Bible verses back to God?

Let's Talk: Day 238

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.