

Let's Talk: Day 239-One Story

Ezra – Ezra Reads the Law to the People & the Benefits of Bible Reading

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 8; Nehemiah 9; Deuteronomy 31:9-13

Have each family member pick his or her favorite Bible story. Then, without using words (you can draw a picture or play charades), have the other family members guess what your favorite story is.

Questions:

1. What did Ezra do before all the people? What was the attitude of the people?
2. In addition to reading the Law to the congregation, how did the priests and Levites help the people?
3. Do you have any questions about God or the Bible? Make a list. How could your family study the Bible together to discover some of the answers to these questions?
4. In Nehemiah 9, how did the people split up their day? Have you spent time doing each of these things lately? If not, schedule a time to do so as a family.

Let's Talk: Day 240

Malachi – The Final Old Testament Prophet (400+ Years Before Christ) & Prophecies of Christ

Today's Reading: Malachi 2:7-17; Malachi 3; Malachi 4

Today's reading talks about tithes and offerings. Do you have a designated box or envelope where you put your offering? If not, take some time to decorate a container in which to put your offering. This is a great time to learn the importance of giving to God, since He owns it all anyhow.

Questions:

1. According to Malachi 2, how have the people made God weary with their words? Have you ever experienced this with someone else's words? What is God's attitude toward these people?
2. Who does Malachi prophesy is going to come? Do you know how that was fulfilled?
3. What did the people need correction on regarding tithes and offerings? How does God say they were actually hurting themselves with their disobedience?
4. Who do you think is the Sun of Righteousness? Why?

Let's Talk: Day 241

Jesus' Predecessor – John the Baptist's Conception & Birth
Today's Reading: Luke 1:1-25; Luke 1:57-80; Malachi 4:5-6

Today we read about someone who was unable to talk for months. As family, find 10 minutes together when you decide not to talk. How else can you communicate? How well can you communicate?

Questions:

1. When did Zacharias hear the news that he was going to be a daddy? Why did he have a hard time believing this news?
2. How was Zacharias affected because of his initial disbelief? The angel said he had been praying for a child probably for many years. What is the longest you have prayed for something?
3. What did Zacharias do when he was able to speak again? What do you think he had been thinking for the months he couldn't talk?
4. How is John a fulfillment of Malachi 4?

Let's Talk: Day 242

Jesus' Conception – The Miracle That a Virgin Could Conceive a Child by the Holy Spirit
Today's Reading: Luke 1:26-56; John 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1-5

The last two days have had multiple angelic messengers. Play a game of "Telephone" and see if the message stays the same.

Questions:

1. How did Mary find out she was going to have a baby? What was her response? What do you imagine your response would have been?
2. Who did she go visit? How was Mary encouraged by her visit?
3. How did Mary praise God? She was a simple, young, unwed lady from the country and God used her in a big way. How can this encourage you?
4. According to John, what was the job of John the Baptist?

Let's Talk: Day 243

Jesus' Gestation – Mary's Pregnancy & Joseph's Crisis ("How should I divorce Mary?")

Today's Reading: Matthew 1:18-25; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Isaiah 7:13-14

Ask your parents to tell you how they first found out they were going to have you. Who did they tell first?

Questions:

1. When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, what did he want to do?
2. Who changed his mind? If you were Joseph, what would you have been thinking when you woke up?
3. Looking at the context at the verse, what does the name "Jesus" mean? How did He live up to His name?
4. How is this a fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7? Joseph was obedient to the words God spoke to him through the angel but do you think there were days during Mary's pregnancy that he doubted? Is there a situation in your life that you need to be obedient to God, even though it is hard to see how it will all work out?

Let's Talk: Day 244

Jesus' Birth – Jesus' Birth, Promise, Circumcision, & the Mystery of Godliness

Today's Reading: Luke 2:1-40; Isaiah 9:6-7; 1 Timothy 3:16

Look at some of your own baby pictures. Ask your parents to tell you about the day you were born.

Questions:

1. Why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem? What happened while they were there?
2. Who were the first people (after Mary and Joseph) to hear about the birth of Jesus? Why do you think God picked them? What did they do with the information? What do you do with the “good news” of Jesus?
3. How did Simeon and Anna react when they saw baby Jesus at the temple? How do you think Mary and Joseph might have needed that encouragement?
4. What part of Isaiah 9 has been fulfilled in today’s reading? What part are we still waiting to be fulfilled? What do you imagine the world to look like when Jesus chooses to be totally in charge as king?

Let’s Talk: Day 245

Today’s Reading: Sunday is the weekly OFF day

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.