

Let's Talk: Day 246-One Story

Jesus' Childhood – The Wise Men Visit, Jesus is Taken to Egypt, & Jesus at 12 Years Old

Today's Reading: Matthew 2; Micah 5:2-5; Luke 2:41-52

Plan a trip for a long weekend. Where would you go and what would you do? If you were to take another family or two who would you take? Can you imagine being in a large enough group where you might not even see your parents for a day or two?

Questions:

1. Who knew where the Christ was to be born? Did it appear that they were looking for him?
2. How did the wise men react when they saw Jesus? How much time and effort did they put into finding Jesus? What did they give Him when they found Him? Compare that to the priests living in Jerusalem. Is your heart more like the wise men or the priests when it comes to searching after and knowing Jesus?
3. Why did Herod want to know where the Christ was? How did God protect Jesus?
4. What would you be feeling if you couldn't find your kids (or your parents) for three days? How did Jesus feel about it? What was he doing during that time?

Let's Talk: Day 247

Jesus' Baptism – John the Baptist's Ministry & Honor of Baptizing Jesus

Today's Reading: Matthew 3; Luke 3:1-23; Isaiah 40:3-5

God the Father and Jesus the Son know each other completely but the Father still gives us the example of publicly praising His Son. Take time now to honestly praise each other.

Questions:

1. How would you describe John the Baptist? What was his personality? If he lived in today's times, what do you think he would be like?
2. What job had God given John? How is he a fulfillment of Isaiah 40?
3. Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus? How did Jesus respond?
4. What did God the Father say as Jesus was baptized?

Let's Talk: Day 248

Jesus' Temptation – A 40-Day Fast, the Bible, & Three Types of Temptation (Flesh/Eyes/Pride)

Today's Reading: Matthew 4:1-11; Deuteronomy 8:1-3; 1 John 2:15-16

View some age appropriate advertisements as a family (magazines, internet, TV). How can these ads get us to focus in ways God does not approve?

Questions:

1. For how long did Jesus fast? How did Satan first tempt him? What does this teach us about Satan and knowing our weaknesses?
2. How does Jesus combat the temptations? Do you know where you are weak? What verses can you memorize as a defense against temptations?
3. What is the difference between God testing us and the devil tempting us? How did God test the Israelites in the Old Testament?
4. Can you think of an example of each of the three types of temptations listed in 1 John 2?

Let's Talk: Day 249

Jesus' First Disciples – John the Baptist Points People to Jesus the Lamb of God

Today's Reading: John 1:15-51; Deuteronomy 18:15-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19

Go geocaching (<http://geocaching.com>). Talk about the clues you followed to find the target. How is this like John pointing the way to Jesus? Simpler version: Hide an object in the house and play a game of "hot and cold." Tell people as they get closer or "warmer" to the object.

Questions:

1. What are some of the words John preached about Jesus? How did he prepare the way for Jesus?
2. Who was the first person who started following Jesus? Who had he been following? Who was this disciple's brother?
3. When Nathanael doubted, what did Philip say? How can we help our friends experience who Jesus is?
4. How is Jesus a fulfillment of Deuteronomy 18?

Let's Talk: Day 250

Jesus' First Miracle – A Wedding Runs out of Wine (i.e. Joy) & Jesus Turns Water to Wine

Today's Reading: John 2:1-12; Isaiah 24:11; John 13:1.

Set a formal table setting for today's reading. You can have some fancy treats or serve a simple snack and juice but use it to get into the festive mood of John 2. For a simpler activity: show your kids some of your wedding pictures.

Questions:

1. What did Mary tell the servants of the household that had run out of wine at the wedding? Why do you think she did that?
2. Before Jesus performed the miracle, what did He ask the servants to do?
3. Do you need a miracle in your life? What might Jesus be asking you to do first?
4. Imagine you were one of those servants. How would your life be changed after that wedding? Would the impact have been as big if the servants hadn't filled the containers with water first?

Let's Talk: Day 251

Jesus' Passover at Jerusalem – Cleaning the Temple, Nicodemus, & Being Born Again

Today's Reading: John 2:13-25; John 3:1-21; 1Peter 1:23

Go around the room and have everyone give their high point and low point for the day. Jesus was fully human and experienced a range of emotions in His day too. What emotions can you find in today's reading?

Questions:

1. What did Jesus see at the temple and what did He do about it?
2. What did Jesus say would be destroyed but then rebuilt in three days? Why were the disciples confused but when did it make sense?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says, "You must be born again?"
4. Why did God send Jesus to the world? How do we see God's love in this chapter? Have you accepted God's gift of love through Jesus?

Let's Talk: Day 252

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.

As we study the life of Jesus we are reminded that He is both fully God and fully human. What part of this week's reading highlights for you either his humanity or his deity?