

Let's Talk: Day 344-One Story

Paul – Journey #3 (Ephesus) – The Story of the Church at Ephesus through Scripture

Today's Reading: Acts 19; 1Timothy 1:1-7; Revelation 2:1-7

The ruins of Ephesus remain today. Google “ancient Ephesus images” to see the actual city where Paul preached.

Questions:

1. Some people at Ephesus had heard the message of John the Baptist. But what information were they missing? How did Paul help them?
2. How long did Paul stay in Ephesus?
3. Describe the riot that happened in Ephesus. Why did it start? Do you ever see people get passionate against Jesus today?
4. What good things does John say about the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2? What does it look like to leave your “first love?” What does it look like “keep your first love?”

Let's Talk: Day 345

Paul – Journey #3 (Plan for Rome) – Paul's Plan to Visit Rome after Visiting Jerusalem

Today's Reading: Acts 19:20-22; Romans 1:8-17; Romans 15:20-33

If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go and why? If you could travel to a part of the world to tell people about Jesus where would you want to go and why?

Questions:

1. Where did Paul want to go? Why do you think he wanted to go there?
2. In his letter to the church at Rome, why does he say he wants to visit?

3. What does Paul say about the gospel of Christ? What does it look like to be ashamed of the gospel? What does it look like to be bold? Where are you on the scale between ashamed and bold regarding the gospel?
4. How did Paul want the church at Rome to pray for him? Where else was he wanting to go besides Rome? Isn't amazing to think how much Paul traveled in the ancient world?

Let's Talk: Day 346

Paul – Journey #3 (Macedonia,,Troas) – Paul Teaches the Elders How to Shepherd

Today's Reading: Acts 20; Titus 1:5-10; 1Peter 5:1-11

Humility is hard! Have each family member write 1Peter 5:5b on a paper and draw a picture of what that means to them. Then have them post it in a place they will see it throughout the week.

Questions:

1. What happened when Paul preached late into the night? How did he fix that situation? How well do you think the people listened to the rest of his message after that?
2. What advice did he give to the elders of the church of Ephesus? What stands out to you the most and why?
3. What are some of the characteristics a bishop or elder needs to have? Why do you think these are important in a church leader?
4. What does 1Peter 5:5-6 mean to you? How can you apply it this week? Why is it hard to submit?

Let's Talk: Day 347

Paul – Arrest in Jerusalem – The Jews Oppose Paul for Being Called to the Gentiles

Today's Reading: Acts 21; Acts 22; Philippians 3

Paul talks about pursuing Jesus like an athlete pursues winning the prize. Research the kind of practice schedule Olympians or professional athletes have to do to be competitive. How might this look like for us spiritually? Do you think most Christians have this discipline?

Questions:

1. What did Agabus tell Paul?
2. What did Paul do first in Jerusalem? Why was he arrested?
3. What does Paul tell the crowd? At what point do they stop listening to him? Why?
4. What is Paul's perspective on his stuff and his goals in Philippians 3? What steps could you take to have more of the same perspective as Paul?

Let's Talk: Day 348

Paul – Journey #4 (Jerusalem, Caesarea) – The Sadducees, Pharisees, & Paul's Trial before Felix

Today's Reading: Acts 23; Acts 24; Philippians 1:27-30

Waiting is hard. Today we read about how Paul was stuck waiting on legal decisions that would determine the course of his future. Be silent and wait for three minutes. What is hard about waiting? What did you think about while waiting? Let's see Paul's attitude while he waited.

Questions:

1. What plot was there against Paul's life? How did God use the Roman government to protect Paul? Does that reassure you that God is really in control of all the details of your life?
2. Where was Paul sent next? How did Paul answer the accusations against him? What did he pinpoint as the reason he was in jail?
3. How did Felix respond to Paul's preaching? How long was Paul there? What do you think Paul thought as he sat in his jail for that long?
4. What is Paul's advice in Philippians 1? Have you ever had this attitude? How could you grow towards living in this manner?

Let's Talk: Day 349

Paul – Journey #4 (Caesarea) – Paul's Trials & Submitting to the Laws of the Government

Today's Reading: Acts 25; Acts 26; 1Peter 2:11-17

Pray for the people in the state and federal government. Try and name the president and vice-president; your state senators and

congressmen; and the mayor for your city." Think of a way you can honor the people holding the position even if you don't agree with their ideas.

Questions:

1. To whom did Paul appeal? Why do you think he did that?
2. What did Paul tell King Agrippa? If you had been in prison for over two years like Paul, what do you think you would have told King Agrippa? What was his response?
3. What was Paul's attitude towards Roman authority? How does this fit with the I Peter 2 passage?
4. What is your attitude toward authority or the laws of your government? How do you "honor the king" in our day?

Let's Talk: Day 350

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.