

Let's Talk: Day 218-Whole Bible

Today's Reading: Ezra 8-9, Luke 20 / Family Chapter: Ezra 8

The Jews prayed to God for a safe journey back to their homeland. What need is your family going through right now? Pray together about it.

Questions:

1. Ezra led a group of people from Babylon to Jerusalem. If you lived back then would you want to leave the home you knew for the home you were promised by God? Knowing it would be a one-way trip many Jews chose not to leave. What would you do and why?
2. When he looked at who was traveling with him, who was Ezra missing? Why was this important?
3. Imagine traveling back in Old Testament times. Pretend you are one of the Jews in Babylon finally returning to Jerusalem after 70 of captivity. What emotions might you be feeling as you depart and why?
4. What did Ezra do spiritually to prepare for the trip? Do you ever do anything to prepare yourself spiritually before you undertake a big task? If so, what?

Let's Talk: Day 219

Today's Reading: Ezra 10-Nehemiah 2, Luke 21 / Family Chapter: Nehemiah 2

Nehemiah was sad because Jerusalem lay in ruins. Each family member share some situation outside of your home that makes you sad. If you had unlimited money and authority, what would you do to make it better?

Questions:

1. Chapter one tells how Nehemiah had been fasting and praying for the people in Jerusalem. How did this prepare him to answer the king when Nehemiah was asked what was wrong?
2. Has God given you a problem to solve that you are currently praying about and looking for an opportunity to act? If so, share with your family. If not, are you willing to be a leader like Nehemiah?
3. What did Nehemiah do when he first got to Jerusalem? Why do you think he did this by himself?
4. What are some of the characteristics of Nehemiah seen in this chapter that make him a good leader? Point out what leadership qualities you see in each other.

Let's Talk: Day 220

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 3-4, Luke 22 / Family Chapter: Nehemiah 4

Has anyone ever tried to convince you that you couldn't do something? Each person share some challenge they face. Then each family member should encourage one another.

Questions:

1. Who were Nehemiah's enemies? Why didn't they want the wall surrounding Jerusalem rebuilt?
2. What physical steps did Nehemiah take to protect the people and wall project?
3. What spiritual steps did Nehemiah take to protect the people and wall project? How can you use both your physical and spiritual intellect to defend yourself against your enemies?
4. Nehemiah tells the people to: "Remember the Lord... fight for your families... rally together... God will fight for us." How can these words apply to us today?

Let's Talk: Day 221

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 5-6, Luke 23 / Family Chapter: Nehemiah 6

Read the chapter first. Then pretend you are Nehemiah writing a personal note to his family back in Babylon. What do you think he would write?

Questions:

1. How did Nehemiah's enemies try to distract him from his task in this chapter? How did Nehemiah respond? What do you think you would have done?
2. When his enemies tried to intimidate him, what did Nehemiah pray?
3. Even people within Jerusalem tried to trick Nehemiah and give him bad advice because they were listening to the enemy. How do you think Nehemiah knew who to listen to and what to do each day?
4. How can an enemy sometimes be more effective by making us afraid than by plainly attacking? Can you think of an example of this in your life or in someone else's life?

Let's Talk: Day 222

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 7-8, Luke 24 / Family Chapter: Nehemiah 8

Arm or thumb wrestle! How many times can you say, "The joy of the Lord is my strength" before someone wins?

Questions:

1. What did Ezra do in this chapter? How did the Levites help?
2. Most people of this era couldn't read. Do you think the people knew the Law before it was read to them in this chapter? Why or why not?
3. Why would the people weep when they heard the Law? What attitude did the Israelites seem to have in this chapter? Is that different from before they were in captivity? Explain.
4. What feast did the people keep? Imagine what it would have felt like to finally be back in your homeland after captivity participating in the feasts that your forefather Moses did. What emotions might you have?

Let's Talk: Day 223

Today's Reading: Nehemiah 9, John 1 / Family Chapter: John 1

John was sent as a messenger to announce the arrival of Jesus. If you were to create a headline for Jesus coming to Earth (or being baptized) what would it be?

Questions:

1. Jesus is referred to by several other names in this text. How many can you find? Do you understand why he would be given those "nicknames"?
2. John the Baptist was the cousin to Jesus. Think of a cousin you have. How would you feel if when you were adults you realized he was the Son of God?
3. How did Jesus make his first disciples?
4. What did Jesus say about Nathanael? What do you think He would say about you?

Let's Talk: Day 224

Today's Reading: Today is the weekly OFF day

Mystery Question for the upcoming week: Who was sent by God to bear witness? John 1

Ask every family member to share one inexpensive thing they would like to do together as a family before the end of the year. Plan it on the calendar now.