

FAMILY FAITH ON THE FRIDGE

Jacob's Well - A Monthly Guide for Playing in God's Story at Home - March 2015



Lenten Prayer Practices for Families

St. Ignatius' Prayer of Examen for Kids: Helps kids recognize God's movement in their lives and respond with prayer. Begin by sharing the highs and lows of your day responding to each with prayers of thanks or petition. With younger children, the simplicity of focusing on just the high or low can be helpful. Visit familiesatthewell.com for more ideas on examen. -Mimi Keel, JW Kids Team

Lenten Prayer Journals: With pictures, space for drawings, and hidden pockets to open, prayer journals made from envelopes create a concrete prayer experience for young children. See familiesatthewell.com for directions and examples. - Chris Moore, JW Kids Team

Cuddle Prayers for Wee Ones: With babies, we cuddle them and look for God in their little lives, sharing thanks and petitions out loud as we rock them. With toddlers, we ask and listen for their happy and sad moments, showing them how we offer thanks and ask for help in response. Add this sweet little blessing, too: "(Name), God made you. God loves you. God blesses you. God is with you."

- Christie Hansen, JW Kids Team



Ready to Share the Cross?

Sharing the story of Jesus's death and resurrection can unearth some tough questions and feelings for our kids. We encourage you to give up having the right answers for them, and instead, to wonder and feel with them. Why did God choose this way to rescue us? Why are some things so hard? We also encourage you to spend some time personally in the book of Mark, chapters 11-16. What questions and emotions does this story generate in you? How will you respond?

Other Lenten Practices for Families



We've listed some great ideas from other JW families below. Find more information and ideas like these at familiesatthewell.com

"We use a lenten calendar we found on CatholicLiving.com. It really helps make Lent concrete for our kindergartner."

-The Rietmas

"We love Youthfront's Lenten Devotional for Families which has something for each Sunday in Lent. It continues to generate great conversations through out the following week, too. As we light our Christ candle at the dinner table each night, the kids want to talk about the ways they are experiencing Lent, like saying "no" to self, being worried about the homeless or someone at school, or how we can respond with prayer." - The Moores

"We do a lenten candle arrangement, similar to an advent wreath, that we light before dinner each night. We place votive candle holders in an arrangement of the cross, and we light a new candle each Sunday, saving the middle white one for Easter Sunday." - The Williams



Easter Books We Love

The Story of Easter, by Patricia Pingry

Perfect for little ones, this book gives a simple and sweet explanation of Easter and of Jesus's love for us. I love how it ties the Easter story in with spring, something tangible that kids are seeing all around them this time of year. – Christie Hansen, JW Kids Team



The First Easter, by Lois Rock

Perfect for preschoolers, this book gently introduces young readers to the death and resurrection of Jesus. The illustrations are wonderful, and I love how the author carries the story well beyond the cross introducing kids to the hope that is ours. – Chris Moore, JW Kids Team

Love One Another, by Lauren Thompson

Perfect for grade schoolers, this book gives a more complete telling of Christ's journey to the cross. I love the way it's focus remains on Jesus's teachings and the importance of receiving and giving love as well as forgiveness. – Chris Moore, JW Kids Team



Find more book recommendations on familiesatthewell.com

Holy Week at Jacob's Well

Seder Meal - April 1st

Wednesday, April 1st from 6:30-8pm in Banner Hall. Great for grade schoolers! This meal uses symbolic foods to recount God's saving acts in the Exodus and the saving acts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Full details and sign ups online at jacobsowellchurch.org.

Good Friday at Home - April 3rd

This is a great time to invite young ones to participate. Get ready for bed, then head to the family space where your Christ candle awaits. Read the story of Jesus' death (Luke 23), and then extinguish Christ's light and head to bed in the dark and quiet together.

Holy Saturday Vigil - April 4th

Beginning at 7pm in the Prayer Chapel, we invite you to experience a sacred space designed just for families. Seven interactive stations focusing on Jesus' journey to the cross will be available for your family.

Easter Sunday Celebration - April 5th

Start your morning together reading the story of Jesus' resurrection (Mark 16:1-11), and light your Christ candle! It's time to celebrate the hope that is ours! Head over to Jacob's Well at 7, 9, or 11am to celebrate and enjoy a pancake breakfast in Banner Hall with our community! Children three years and older will join the celebration in the main sanctuary, and pew activities will be available in the lobby. Childcare is provided for our wee ones two years old and under.

Sing a New Song

He Set the Table

(tune of Give Me Oil in my Lamp)

He gave 'em bread on the table,
his body. (hold bread and tear)

He gave 'em wine in the cup,
his blood. (cup hands)

Hallelujah! (clap and wiggle hands)

He gave them love everlasting from
the Father, Father, Father. (touch heart)

He set the table with his love that day.
(hands sweep out)

Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna
(right arm out, then left)

Sing Hosanna to the King of kings
(hands up, set crown on head)

Repeat Chorus

Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey,
on the busy road. (donkey ears)
Got to keep on plodding onward
with your humble load. (plod)

Shout Hosanna

(clap and wiggle fingers)

Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Wave your palm branches

(wiggles finger, wave arms)

Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Little donkey, little donkey,
on the busy road.

