

FAMILY FAITH ON THE FRIDGE

Jacob's Well - A Guide Connecting Home and Church - September 2015

Wee Ones

Babes - Three Year Olds

Sing It!

God Called Samuel
(tune of "Oh, My Darlin'")

God called Samuel, God called Samuel

God called Samuel in the night.
Samuel thought that it was Eli,
But Eli told him it was God.

God called Samuel, God called Samuel
God called Samuel in the night.
This time Samuel knew God's calling
And he said, "I'm listening".

Play in the Story: God Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

We'll be spending September in 1 Samuel 3:1-10, the wonderful story of God calling to Samuel and how God also calls to us. Samuel thinks it's Eli, the temple priest who's calling him in the night, but after the third time being called, Eli tells Samuel that it's God who's calling him and he should answer him by saying, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening".

Play In The Story - Use the stick puppets your child made at church to help retell and act out the story.

Prayer Practice - Invite your child to join you in Child's Resting Pose. Invite them to quietly rest in God's presence. You might rub their back saying, "God is here with you".



Hide-It-In-Your-Heart
Memorize 1 Samuel 3:10 together.
"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" or "Speak Lord, I am listening."

The Loft

Four Year Olds - Kindergarten

Let's Sing!

I See the Love of God in You

I see the love of God in you
(cover heart with hands)

The light of Christ comes shining through
(spread fingers and arms fan out)

And I am blessed to be with you,
(hold hands)

Oh, Holy Child of God.
(bow to one another)

Play in the Story: God Delivers His People (Exodus 3-13)

What a great month to be in the Loft! Kids will be exploring one of our most important faith stories, God bringing his people out of slavery in Egypt. The Jesus Storybook Bible (and probably lots of others) has a great telling of this story, and if you'd like to discover the story too, check out Exodus 3-13.



Hit The Library!

Check out these favorites, Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim, by Deborah Cohen or Let My People Go, by Tilda Balsley. Check familiesatthewell.com under Lent for more ideas!

Chat About The Tough Stuff - Take time to talk about what it feels like to be a slave like the Israelites were in Egypt, or to see other people hurt or be sad. How does God want us to respond to tough things? Share ways you've seen God in your own life when things are sad or hard.

Praying with Scripture - Try memorizing Deuteronomy 31:6 together, and then use it as a prayer for when you're afraid: Be strong (stand tall with muscles) and take courage (make breastplate across chest with arm) God is with you (hug yourself).

Table Talk

What does it mean to be loyal? Who are you loyal to?

What is a judge? What do judges do?

What is poverty? What is it like to be poor?

What does God's voice sound like? How do you know when God is speaking?

What is a king? What do kings do?

The Grade Schoolers have been learning about the period of Jewish history after Moses & Joshua, but before the kings. It is a time of judges, who appear from time to time to settle disputes, repel invaders, and turn the people's hearts back to God.

During this period, a Moabite named Ruth gets drawn into God's Big Story due to her loyal companionship to her mother-in-law, Naomi. She also falls in love with a noble man named Boaz, in one of the Bible's great romances. Also, during this period, Samuel arises as the last judge of Israel, a great prophet who hears directly from God and eventually anoints Saul as Israel's first king.



Readin' On The Sofa
Ruth & Naomi - Ruth 1:1-22
Ruth & Boaz - Ruth 2:1 - 3:13
Samuel Hears a Voice - 1 Samuel 3:1-21
Samuel Picks a King - 1 Samuel 8:1-22, 10:17-25

Memory Verse

Ruth 1:16: "Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God."

Listening Prayer

Take a moment at bedtime to sit quietly with your child and practice listening for the voice of God, just like young Samuel did. Keep a small notebook or pad handy to write down any messages you might hear or feeling you discern. Discuss how you might recognize a message from God.

A New School Year, A New Practice

Mimi Keel, Kids' Community Director

My favorite family spiritual practice is St. Ignatius' Examen. It is also referred to as the Review-of-The-Day. I like to call it the I Spy God Game. The examen offers a space to pause and recall how God showed up in our day...a time to notice the ways we sensed his presence with us. It's a chance to come together as a family and name the highs and lows from our day, the good gifts God gave us and the hard parts, too.

In our family, we enjoy doing the examen around the dinner table. But sometimes we snuggle up and do it at bedtime, instead. Lighting a candle at the table or grabbing a flashlight for bedtime adds some spark to the experience.

You might start by asking ONE of the questions below, based on the age of your child(ren). Pause to give everyone a chance to think back through their day. Invite everyone to share. Ask another question from below. Pause again. Then, invite each person to share. Close in prayer, thanking God for the specific ways each "spied" God in their day, as well as praying for help in what was hard about the day. There are different ways you can adapt this practice for your family. The Moore family invites the first person to share. Then the person next to them thanks God for the good and prays for what was hard in that person's day. Go around table until everyone has had a chance to share & pray. The Penrose family (photo on right) likes how the examen practice invites meaningful reflection and conversation.

Pre-School:

What made you happy today? What made you sad today?
Where did you spy God in your day?

Grade School:

When did you spy God in your day?
When did you feel God was close to you today?
Was there a time in your day you felt far from God?
What was the best part of your day? The worst?

