

FAMILY FAITH ON THE FRIDGE

Jacob's Well - A Monthly Guide for Playing in God's Story at Home - March/April 2016



We Remember Jesus (Luke 22:14-30)

Set The Table: Set the table for snack time with Jesus. Share a snack with Jesus, just like he did with his friends, the disciples.

Color Hunt! God brings his colors out in spring. Grab your jacket and head out on a walk. See how many colors you can find outside.

Pray! Jesus, I remember you. You are the Son of God.

Sing a New Song

Jesus Loves Us All Today

(Tune of London Bridge)

Jesus loves us all today, Clap your hands.
Shout, "Hooray!"
Jesus loves us all today, We're so happy!

(Replace "Clap your hands" with "Spin around" and Touch your toes".)



Hosanna

(A Vintage Kids Hymn)

Ho-Ho-Ho Hosanna!

Ha-Ha-Halleluyah!

He-He-He came to love me,

I've got the joy of the Lord!

The Loft

Preschool - Kinders

Jesus is Alive!

by Rain for Roots

Who died?
(cross arms over chest)
And came alive again?
(arms out wide)

Who came to rescue
you and me?

(scoop and hold to chest)
Who came to make all
things brand new?

(clap to left, right hand up
and over)

And did it all for love of
you.

(beat hands on heart)

Find this song on iTunes or
Amazon

Jesus & Mary in The Garden (John 20:11-18)



Read & Chat! - Pick up your favorite children's Bible and read the story of Jesus and Mary in the Garden on that first happy Easter morning. Imagine together what it must have felt like to walk to Jesus' tomb. How did Mary feel? Why didn't she recognize Jesus at first? Imagine how she felt as she ran to tell the others. And if God's love can make Jesus' life new again, what else might God be making new right now?

Eye Spy! - Each spring the mid-west is flooded with new life. Take time to play Eye Spy with a twist, "Eye spy something new, and it reminds me of Jesus!" It could be buds on trees, the first daffodils, or baby birds!

Hit the Library! - There are so many great Easter books out there. Check out <http://familiesatthewell.com/2015/03/17/childrens-books-for-easter/> for a great list of Easter books we love here at Jacob's Well.

Praying for Others! - Just like Mary ran to share the Good News of Easter, do you know someone who needs to know how much God love them? Take time to pray God will show them His Love this Easter.



The Wonderground

1st Grade - 5th Grade

The Kingdom Splits (1 Kings 11:26-13:6)

In March, we continue to consider the succession of Israel's kings with a look at Solomon's son, Rehoboam, whose willful violence splits the God's kingdom into Israel & Judah. Then we'll look at Jeroboam, a humble and pious official who rises to rule the northern tribes only to fall into idolatry.

These two kings exemplify just how hard it is for flawed humans to perfectly follow God's commands. Then King Jesus rides in on a donkey to show us how it's done, through gentleness, compassion, and self-sacrifice.

Bedtime Stories

The Torn Kingdom - 1st Kings 11:26 - 12:20

King Jeroboam's Altar - 1st Kings 12:25-13:6

King Jesus - Matt. 21:1-11; Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:25-29



Book Resources

Power Bible 5: The Kingdom Becomes Divided by Green Egg Media

Little Colt's Palm Sunday by Michelle Medlock Adams

The Week That Led to Easter by Arch Books

Conversations Around the Table

Why do Israel's kings have such a hard time obeying God's rules?

Which of God's rules do you have a hard time following?

What are you tempted to pay more attention to than God?

How is Jesus like a king?

How is he different?

What is Holy Week?



A JW Family Shares A Family Fast

As we rolled into the new year of 2016, our family wanted to spend some time thinking and praying about a path for our family with the question: "What kind of family do we want to be?"

Of course all sorts of things come to mind - a loving, healthy, active, hospitable, grateful family, a family with faith, etc. But to engage a little deeper with our children rather than just an abstract brainstorming session, we decided to start the year with a 5-day fast. First, we figured out what would work for our family - all of us - to participate together. For us, that meant a simple diet targeting where we saw food holding too big of a place in our lives (for us, this meant sugar, white breads, caffeine, dairy, and alcohol). Black beans and brown rice, leafy greens, avocado, spices, and plain oatmeal are what we opted for our menu. Adding things like raisins, fresh fruits and veggies, hummus, and milk for the kids made their choices a little easier.

Then we explained to our kids, ages 5 & 3, that much of the world has a lot fewer food choices than we do and that people in all different cultures do this thing called a fast - where you choose to limit your own options to remember and thank God for all the things that we do have.

Let's not pretend that this was easy. Our 3-year old chose to eat nothing for the first two meals, but by evening she was ready and happy to eat. Our 5-year old complained about not having treats in his lunch. As a nursing mom, I recognized immediately I would need more fats than I was getting, and the baby really didn't like the change in milk taste for a day or so. And staying engaged in a desk job with much less caffeine is not an easy task!

But when we sat down to discuss what type of family we want to be after two days of fasting, we were amazed at how engaged the kids were. Of course lots of silly answers and laughs finally ended up with a list looking something like this: A discovery family who does science, an artist family who creates things, loves its neighbors, plays outside, asks good questions and listens, a thankful family, is cool and smart, uses good manners, makes friends who are diverse, laughs together, loves and obeys God, loves and serves the church, knows and respects its limits

We knew the kids were starting to get it when our 5-year old said, "I wondered the first two days why you didn't pack a treat in my lunch but then today I realized it was because we were doing a fast!"

Grace is the key - as always - and we worked hard to not make it too hard or strict for the kids. A promise of making cookies at the end of the week is a great reward! But hard as it was, it was GOOD and we are excited to continue to think creatively about how to engage our whole family in spiritual practices that work for us!

