



The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2017-2018)

Lesson #4-26

John 18:28-40

Last Week

Sometimes following Jesus can be difficult. Last week we heard the heartbreaking story of Peter's denial of Jesus.

This Week

Jesus confuses and angers Pilate by revealing that the Kingdom of God is not of this world.

Story Summary

After facing the high priest, Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate with the accusation that he is claiming to be a king. This is punishable with death. Jesus does not answer his accusers directly, but instead answers that the kingdom he reigns over is different. It is not from this world. While Pilate is confused by Jesus' answers, he realizes that Jesus is not a threat to the Roman authorities. Yet to maintain the peace, he offers to set one of two criminals free. Due to their own concerns about power, the Jewish leaders select Barabbas instead of Jesus.

Practice: Worship

Worship is all about showing God our love and sharing God's word with others. We show our love to God through worship in praying, singing, sharing the meal, and by our mere presence. Take ten minutes this week to respond to God's gift of love through art and music.

The Point

Unlike the powers of oppression in our world, Jesus' kingdom proclaims the truth.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

The Roman Empire

The Romans were the conquering authority in Jesus' time. They maintained order, chose leaders, and oppressed any forces that seemed to stand in their way. The majority of the people in Judea were peasants who worked in agriculture, fishing, or as merchants. While the elite and royal families gained power, protection, and prestige from Rome, the people had no say in the governance. Roman occupation also meant Roman military presence. People who were seen as a threat to Rome or to social order were often tortured and crucified (or beheaded, if they were a Roman citizen). This—along with high taxes, not being able to have control over religious matters, and an increasing pressure to worship Roman deities—led to growing tension between the Jewish people in Judea and the Roman occupiers.

Next Week

Next week, Jesus reveals to Pilate that the Kingdom of God is not of this world.

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text speak to our theme of God's Kingdom is Revealed?
- ✚ What does this scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read John 18:28-40

The kingdom of God is not of this world.

Look around you. Where do you see God's kingdom? It is everywhere!

Monday—Read John 15:8-11

You will bear much fruit.

Eat fruit together as you read this passage. What type of fruit do you bear as a disciple?

Tuesday—Read John 15:12-17

This is my commandment.

If you do not know it, learn and sing the song "This is My Commandment" together:

<https://youtu.be/G76qx0caWsM>.

Wednesday—Read John 15:18-21

The disciples will be persecuted.

What do you do when it feels like everyone is against you?

Thursday—Read John 15:22-27

You will be my witnesses.

Decide one way that you can be a witness to someone this week.

Friday—Read John 16:1-4a

I have told you so you do not fall away.

Share a favorite Bible verse that you can remember during difficult times.

Saturday—Read John 16:4b-7

Jesus is going away.

Pray together thanking Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us.