

A Dark Night in the Garden

March 29, 2020

Connect as a family:

Take turns taking a picture of each family member's face with your smartphone. Then show everyone in the family the picture, and let them guess how each person is feeling this morning. Remind our kids that God created all of our feelings and emotions so every single one of them is GOOD!

Read Together:

Jesus Storybook Bible: A Dark Night in the Garden, page 294

"Friends, our time today is so special. We get to talk about Jesus! The Bible is God's big love story for us. We are part of the same big God story as the people we read about in the Bible. The Bible is our Light. It helps us see.

Tip: consider lighting a candle while you read the text together. When you are finished, you can blow it out together.

*I was unable to find a youtube video of this story. If you don't have a Jesus storybook Bible, consider downloading the kindle version from Amazon.

Let's talk about it:

When Jesus went to the garden that night he wanted to go talk to someone. Who did he want to talk to? (His Father)

What did he ask his friends to do? (Stay up with him)

What did they do? (Fell asleep)

Did Jesus know it was time for him to die? (Yes)

Had Jesus ever sinned/done anything wrong? (No)

Jesus asked his Papa if there was any other way to rescue the people. But he really already knew. Was dying on the cross the only way? (Yes)

Who brought the soldiers to get Jesus? (Judas)

What did Peter do with his sword? (Cut off a guard's ear)

Did Jesus think that was a good idea? (No)

What did he do? (Put it back on)

What did the leaders ask Jesus? (Are you the Son of God?)

What did Jesus say? (I Am)

Memorize together:

"A new command I give you: Love one another." John 13:34.

● Watch "Love One Another" music video and encourage everyone to sing and follow the motions. Play the music video several times as the kids start to learn the song and motions.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_isl0vaGso&feature=youtu.be
- Ask: How did Jesus show his friends that he loved them?

- Ask: What do you think it means that our Bible says if we love one another, people will know that we are God's Disciples?
- Ask: How can we love one another?

Play Together: "The Bible is True" bucket toss

MATERIALS: Two buckets, beanbags/balls, tape start line

Game play: You can have 1 team or 2, depending on your preference. Form a line behind the start line and set bucket(s) against the opposite wall (use judgement about distance). Each family member gets 3 beanbags/balls to toss and try to make a 'basket'. When a beanbag lands in the bucket shout "The Bible is true!". If many rounds are played you can change the exclamation to "God will never leave me!" or "Jesus is my friend forever!"

Act out the story: assign volunteers to be Jesus, disciples, Peter, Judas, guards, Roman leaders. Read through the story as your family moves dramatically around the room, recreating the story, or allow kids to retell it with you as they act it out. Consider making props together: making scenes out of paper or using foil to make weapons for the guards. You can create simple costumes out of sheets or fabric. Perhaps even perform outside, since the story takes place in the garden.

Pray Together: Thankful Hand stack Prayer

I am so thankful for Jesus. We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we? Have one person place their hand in the middle of the table, then have everyone else in the family place one hand on top to create a "stack" of hands. Start your prayer, "Dear GOd, Then the person whose hand is at the base of the stack goes first, thanking God for a single thing. As they pull out their hand out and place it on top of the "hand stack." Then, the next person, whose hand is now on the bottom, prays, thanking God for one thing, as they pull their hand out and place it on top of the stack. When you sense it is time to stop, raises up the pile of hands. That's the signal for everyone to say "Amen!" and high five the person next to them.

More Ideas:

Take communion together, allowing each family member to serve each other using our communion words (The body of Christ, broken for you. THE blood of Christ, shed for you.)

Jesus felt alone when he was in the garden. Have you ever felt lonely? Do you think there is anyone we know that might feel lonely today? Brainstorm as a family and then make a phone call/facetime with the people you think could use some joy!

When the leaders asked Jesus if he was the son of GOd, he said "I Am." Those are very powerful words! "I" and "Am" are very common sight words that some of our kids may be learning. Write out "I AM" on a piece of paper. Let the kids trace the letters, make them out of playdough, or paint them!