

The Parent Connection



Easter Family Devotion #1 - Easter

The weeks leading up to Easter Sunday can be a very spiritual time for us as Christians. Our preteens are beginning to feel this and often have questions about Jesus's death and resurrection. I took some time and asked preteens and middle school students what questions they had about the story of Jesus's death and resurrection.

Experiment

Supplies: a small bowl, a box of corn starch, and water

- Pour about a cup of cornstarch in the bowl
- Slowly add water a little at a time (until you have a gloppy mess)
- The right consistency will hold together as a solid
- As you relax your hand the cornstarch will turn back to liquid
- Let everyone play with the mixture
- Make sure they continue to work the mixture to keep it a solid

Say: Similar to the experiment we just did, Faith requires effort in order to maintain or increase it. If we are not doing things to help increase our faith, then it will stop growing or even weaken.

(Talk about some things that can increase your faith.)

Say: Keep in mind that having faith is a cornerstone to our relationship with God. But He does give us answers to questions, so we can be confident in his greatness.

As a family, discuss the following questions.

Ask: How do we know Jesus was really dead? (Get responses)

Here are a few verses to help wrestle with that question:

Read Mark 15:43-46

Ask: What makes you think they were sure Jesus was really dead?

Read John 19:31-34

Ask: Who other than the disciples confirmed Jesus was dead?

Say: We tend to skip past these details when we read the story of Jesus's death. The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus's body before his burial.

- They removed the nails.
- They carried the body a good distance to the tomb.
- They were the ones that prepared his body for burial.

We can be assured that in the time they were in contact with his body if there was any sign he was alive they would have noticed it.

Ask: Was Jesus scared to die? (Get responses)

Say: Fear can be a crippling thing when we are not sure of the outcome. In order to overcome fear, we need to have faith that God is never wrong. We need to have faith that His plans are awesome.

Read Matthew 20:17-19

If you knew you were going to be beaten and killed how scared would you be? Even though Jesus knew what was going to happen did he continue his journey into Jerusalem? Why?

Read Luke 22:39-45

What thoughts go through your mind knowing Jesus was so scared that he was sweating blood but still went through it anyway?

Talk about fears in your life that are keeping you from following Gods plan.

Say: Jesus was sent to this earth as a man with all of man's emotions. It is understandable and ok that he was afraid when his death was approaching. But Jesus knew that his death was apart of God's plan. He embraced that plan. In Luke 22:42 Jesus says, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Jesus pushed through his fears because it was God's will.