

Family Faith Talk for March: This month as we journey along towards Easter, we will focus on several stories from Jesus' life.

Week of March 4: Jesus is Dedicated at the Temple

Listen

Read Luke 2:21-40 as a family.

Shortly after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate him. This trip would have taken then several days. What do you think they packed to take on this journey? It was part of tradition and the law that first born sons be taken to the temple for a special ceremony when they were around forty days old. God had promised Simeon many years before that he would see the savior before he died. Simeon waited a really long time, but God's promise came true. God always keeps God's promises. Do you remember what Simeon did when he saw Jesus? He took him in his arms and immediately started praising God. Simeon knew that Jesus was special and would change the whole world. He blessed Mary and Joseph and warned Mary about some of the hard times that would come. Then the prophet Anna saw Jesus and she immediately praised God and told others about him. Afterwards, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth with Jesus.

Talk

I wonder if Simeon got impatient waiting all those years to meet Jesus. Have you ever felt impatient? What does it feel like waiting a long time?

Have you ever seen a Family, Child, or Baby dedication in your church? What happens? How is this like Jesus' dedication? How is it different? If you were dedicated in a church, take a moment to have your family share about the experience. Who was there, what was done, etc.

Pray

Do a "popcorn" prayer starting with, "God, we thank you for..." and do several rounds where each person thanks God for something new. When you've finished, simply end with "Amen."

Family Activity

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus traveled a long way to get from Nazareth to Jerusalem. They must have packed some food for the journey. Pack a picnic to enjoy in your backyard, a park, or somewhere else you enjoy. As you eat, talk about some of the promises that God has made and why it's important to you that God is faithful and keeps promises.

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Week of March 11: Teaching in the Synagogue

Listen

Read Luke 2:41-52 as a family.

Sadly, we don't know much about Jesus when he was growing up. I don't know about you, but I would love to have more stories about Jesus when he was little. This week, though, we get a pretty big glimpse into his life as a twelve-year-old. Jesus traveled with his family from Nazareth to Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover. They would have been traveling with a large crowd made up of friends, families, and others from their city. They stayed for the festival and then headed back. About a day into their travels, Mary and Joseph looked around and realized not only had they not seen Jesus for a long time, but neither had anyone else. He was lost! What did Mary and Joseph do? They rushed back to Jerusalem to find him. How do you think they were feeling? Several days had passed since they'd seen him. Where was he? He was in the temple listening and talking with the teachers and everyone was amazed by him. Jesus' parents weren't too thrilled with him, were they? No, they were so worried! What was Jesus' answer to Mary when she asked him where he had been? Look back to the passage to see. Afterwards, they traveled back home together.

Talk

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "Didn't you know I'd be in my Father's house?" What do you think Mary and Joseph thought about his question?

Have you ever lost something? What did it feel like? Share with your family about a time you all lost something important and then found it.

Jesus was asking the leaders in the temple lots of questions. Do you have any questions for God? Take a moment to share some questions with another that you have for God. It's good to wonder and be curious about our faith!

Pray

Take a moment to thank God for listening to our questions, prayers, and worries.

Family Activity

Mary and Joseph were so relieved to find Jesus safe and sound. Play a few rounds of Hide and Seek. When the seeker finds someone take a moment to celebrate together with a happy dance.

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Week of March 18: Jesus in the Wilderness

Listen

Read Luke 4:1-13 together as a family.

Do you remember the story of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the Jordan river? This was the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Right after this happened, the Holy Spirit led Jesus out into the wilderness, it was a desert. Have you every been to a desert? What is it like? Jesus was out there with no food or water for forty days and forty nights. Because of who Jesus was, he was able to survive without food or water for that long, but Jesus felt thirsty and hungry. The tempter came to try to trick Jesus, but Jesus stayed strong and did not give into the temptation to turn the stone into bread, to jump from a high spot to prove that he was the Son of God, or to trust the tempter's promises for power. Right now we are in the season of Lent, the time we get ready for Easter. Did you know that this story about Jesus is where the 40 days of Lent comes from?

Talk

What does it mean to be tempted? I wonder if you've ever been tempted before. What were you tempted to do or say? Did anyone or anything help you make a good choice?

Have you ever been hungry or thirsty? What does it feel like?

I wonder what it was like out in the wilderness for so long. Do you think that Jesus was lonely? Share about a time that you have felt lonely.

Pray

"God be with us and help us to make good choices when we are temped to do or say things that we know we should not do or say. Amen."

Family Activity

Part of Lent for many followers of Jesus is making room in our lives to spend extra time with God. Sometimes we add things on like prayer practices and sometimes we give things up that are distracting us from God. Others use this time to share love and kindness more often. This week some time, work together to find 40 items that you can donate to help someone in need.

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Week of March 25: The Last Supper

Listen

Read together John 13:1-15

So much happens during Holy Week, from celebrating Palm Sunday to Jesus being hurt and dying. It was a week that started out in celebration and ended with sadness. This week can be hard for us to hear about, but we also know that it isn't the end of the story. Easter is coming and Jesus is alive. On the night before he was betrayed by his friend, Judas, Jesus met with his friends in an upper room. He knew that he didn't have much time left with them and Jesus loved his friends very much. So, after they ate, what did he do? He got down and started to wash their feet. Imagine a time you played outside in sandals and your feet were dirty. The disciples' feet were probably pretty dirty after walking along the dusty roads. They were shocked that Jesus would wash their feet. After all that Jesus had done for them, why do you think they would be so shocked? What happened when Jesus got to Peter? Peter didn't want Jesus to do it. Do you remember why? He thought that he wasn't worthy of Jesus washing his feet, but Jesus helped him to see that it was something that he needed to do. He was teaching them once again to show love and care for others. Jesus reminded them to continue to show love and care for others in the future.

Talk

Jesus chose to spend his last night with his best friends because they were important to him. Who do you love to spend time with?

I wonder why Jesus chose to wash the feet of his disciples to show them care. Talk about why he might have chosen this example to teach his disciples.

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching people and his disciples. What can Jesus teach us? Share some stories from the Bible where Jesus teaches us something important.

Pray

Say, "God, thank you for loving us. We love you. Help us to show love to others each day. Amen."

Family Activity

Grab a towel, a bowl, and some soap. Just as Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, take a moment to wash someone in your family's feet or hands. Each person should have the chance to wash someone's

feet/hands and have their own feet/hands washed. As you are washing, say by name, “____, you are a beloved child of God.” After you’ve finished, talk about how this felt.

Bridget’s Bio:

Bridget Kokolis is the Children’s Minister at First Baptist Greenville in Greenville, SC. She began serving at FBG in September of 2022 after serving as Minister to Families at Augusta Road Baptist Church in Greenville, SC for seven years. In her free time she loves hanging out with her family and going to the beach or Disney World.