



For the Week of March 25, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers:
Authority

Life Notes for Families

Introductions

We hope you're having a great time learning about Jesus together as a family. Whether you have lots of family members or just a few spending time together, we pray you're having fun and noticing the difference that living with Jesus - *together* - can make. We all have our own relationships with God, but we also share a relationship with those we love. Thanks for helping grow this important relationship!

The Word: John 5:16-30

Today, we're reading the story from the New International Version. Mostly, this week's passage is Jesus telling a story - a story of how much his Father loves him and how he listens to his Father. They're in an eternal relationship - one that is hard for all of us to fully understand. Let's listen to what Jesus says.

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

Jesus: *"My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."*

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus (to the Jews): *"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it."*

"Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him."

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

"I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man."

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."

responsibilities: who likes them?

The Jewish leaders are really upset with Jesus. So who started this whole conversation? If we go back a few verses, we find the man who was really, really sick that Jesus healed started this current problem. He went and told the Jewish leaders that Jesus had healed him...on the Sabbath...and they weren't happy.

Doesn't it seem weird that the man would tell on Jesus? Doesn't it seem strange that he wasn't happy to be healed?

It does seem strange. But here's what we think - we think he was scared of his new responsibilities. Even though he wasn't sick anymore, he didn't really know what to do with his new life. When he was sick by the pool, at least he'd had an identity...people had known who he was and no one asked him to do anything. Now, well, now he'd have to take care of himself. And maybe that was too scary for him. And so he blamed Jesus.

Do you ever struggle with responsibilities? Like chores you have to do at home, watching out for a baby brother or sister, doing homework for school when you'd rather be doing something else or other kinds of responsibilities?

Talk about some of the responsibilities you have and be honest about the ones that are difficult for you - responsibilities you sometimes avoid or put off (moms and dads, this includes you!).

Talk about what makes responsibilities difficult. When do we like them? When do we not like them? How do we act when we don't want to do what we've been asked to do?

the greatest relationship: Jesus and the Father

Most of you probably have people in your life that you really like to be with - people who make you happy - people you love. Talk about some of those people.

Who do you love to be with and why?

How does the other person know you like him or her?

What do you do to appreciate that person or make the relationship even stronger?

Have you ever wanted someone else to have something - an honor, a game, some kind of recognition - instead of you? If so, talk about it.

Jesus really loved his Father. And God the Father loved Jesus.

(Even though it might be a bit confusing, talk together about God the Father and God the Son so that everyone has a chance to understand that relationship a little bit better.)

How did God the Father show his love for Jesus?

How did Jesus show his love for God the Father?

you, Jesus and love

Parents, what do you think are some of the best ways to show love to your children?

Kids, what do you think are some of the best ways to show love to your parents?

(Hint: if you aren't sure about the answer, ask!)

Now, reverse the roles. Kids, be parents and parents, be kids. What do you think are some of the ways we can show love for each other?

How do you think God wants us to show love to each other?

Now let's talk about something that might be harder to figure out...but it's a good thing to discover. Be Jesus for a minute.

How does Jesus want us to show love to him?

How does God the Father want us to show our love for Jesus?

Finally, we usually think about loving God as individuals, but maybe loving him as a family could be a really amazing thing. As a family, come up with some ways that, together, you can love God back.