



For the Week of April 22, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers:
hard truths, part 2

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!

John 6:47-51, Exodus 16

Parents, there are some questions to discuss during or after a meal, and then one exercise to do toward the end of the week after the meal or before bed.

Pastor Mark talked about Jesus being the bread of life. Read the following together a few times - we've included two translations.

Jesus: "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (NIV)

Jesus: "I'm telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever. I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self." (The Message)

Exodus 16 - the story of the Israelites, God, the desert and manna

Manna: bread for 40 years

During or after a meal:

A manna moment:

Talk about Manna - what it was, why God provided it, the Israelites' response to the manna at first...and later...what changed? Ask your family to talk about how they think they might have responded eating the same thing for...40 years.

"Manna was a seedlike substance with a shiny appearance like resin. The people went around collecting it and ground it between stones or pounded it fine in a mortar. Then they boiled it in a pot and shaped it into cakes. It tasted like a delicacy cooked in olive oil. When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna was right there with it. The Israelites were allowed to get only food for one day - they weren't allowed to store the manna. If they tried to store it, it would spoil."

Do you ever receive from God something that is like manna? Please explain everything you can think of that God has given you. In what ways are these gifts like manna?

Jesus: bread for life

A Jesus-bread moment:

What are your favorite foods? When you are hungry, what do you usually want?

What about things/possessions...what kinds of things do you want? What do you ask your parents for? Do you want a phone? Do you want an iPad? Do you want a bicycle? Do you want new shoes? Make a list of all the things you think you want.

What about answers to life's problems...what kinds of answers or solutions do you want? And why? Do you want better grades? Do you want more friends? Do you want to be better at sports? Do you want to be more popular? Make a list of all the things you want to change about your life right now.

What do you want from God? When you're talking to God, what are you asking for? What do you think he has to offer?

Jesus said that he is our bread. What do you think that means?

Jesus said that he is the living bread - that we will live forever. Talk about what that means to you.

Jesus: bread for life each day

God gave manna on a daily basis to meet the daily needs of the Israelites. Jesus feeds us each day, but it's not some kind of physical bread that comes with the morning dew. He takes care of our physical needs, but he takes care of our personhood needs, our heart-needs, our life and soul needs. This is a difficult concept for younger children to grasp, but we're confident parents can handle this one!

Talk about how Jesus showed up that day for each person in the family - how he "fed" each person exactly what they needed. It might take a few minutes for each person to think of something, but that's all right - take your time. Ask everyone to think about how Jesus is meeting our needs today - not just for eternity, but for right now.

If you feel comfortable doing this, you might break bread together as a family. Have some broken pieces of bread in a basket and some juice in cups and talk about Jesus - his death for our sins and his life for our lives, both eternally and now. Have each person talk about the above - what Jesus is currently doing for him or for her to truly feed the soul.