Set the Scene
Gather together over Sunday lunch, a weekday meal or even a walk around the neighborhood. It doesn’t have to be fancy, just a consistent time each week.

Be Open
There are no right or wrong answers! Table Talk is open-ended and designed to lead to further discussion. Allow the conversation to direct itself and be prepared to be surprised!

Have Fun
Life is busy. Use this time to intentionally come together. Table Talks don’t have to take up a lot of time but can be a great springboard into casual time together.

Table Talk prompts invite families to come together to reflect on a given passage from the Sunday service. Table Talk is designed for families with children of all ages. Intentionally simple, the open-ended prompts set the stage for families to begin exploring the Bible together. You will be surprised how these seemingly simple questions lead to surprisingly deep conversations about God, the Bible and faith in general.

Talking about faith with your children doesn’t have to be intimidating. By using Table Talks as a structured entrance into these discussions, you’ll soon find not only is it easier to talk about faith at home but it’s a lot fun!
Passage Overview: The story of Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000 is one of the few miracles recounted in all four Gospels. Each Gospel highlights a different aspect of the story. Today’s account comes from Matthew and focuses on Jesus’ compassion towards both the sick and the hungry crowd who gathered around him.

Passage Text: Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)
I wonder what part of the story you liked best?
I wonder what part of the story was the most important part?
I wonder how they were able to feed so many people with so little food?
In this story Jesus gave the people food. I wonder what Jesus gives us?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):
You may have heard this story before, what did you hear differently this time?
I wonder why Jesus responded to his disciples in the way he did?
I wonder how Jesus created such abundance out of so little food?
I wonder in what ways Jesus provides for us in unexpected ways?
Passage Overview: Today’s lesson comes right after Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000. Jesus goes away by himself to pray, leaving the disciples alone in the middle of the water during a storm. Even after seeing Jesus perform amazing miracles, the disciples don’t recognize Jesus right away. They still ask for proof, for Jesus to tell and show them who he really is.

Passage Text: Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSV)

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,[5] for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

28 Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind,[6] he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)
I wonder if you’ve ever been scared during a storm?
I wonder why Jesus told the disciples “do not be afraid”?
I wonder why the disciples didn’t recognize Jesus right away?
I wonder why Peter asked Jesus to tell him to walk on water?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):
I wonder what stood out to you in this story?
I wonder why the disciples didn’t recognize Jesus right away?
I wonder why Peter wanted to get out of the boat while the others stayed?
Are there ever moments you have doubts?
Passage Overview: Today’s lesson can be hard to hear/understand at first. Jesus seems to be telling this woman that he can’t help her because she is not from the house of Israel. But a closer read reveals that Jesus heals her daughter because of her deep faith not in spite of her heritage. The grace of Christ is open to all who hear the words of Jesus and believe.

Passage Text: Matthew 15:21-28 (NRSV)

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)
I wonder why this woman came to Jesus for help?
I wonder why Jesus decided to heal her daughter?
I wonder why Jesus thought they woman’s “great faith” was so important?
What do you think it means to have “great faith”?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):
I wonder why this woman came to Jesus for help?
I wonder why Jesus initially turns her away? Isn’t he supposed to help everyone?
I wonder why Jesus listens to her and decides to heal her daughter?
What do you think it means to have “great faith”?
How do you proclaim your faith to others?
Matthew 16:13-20

Passage Overview: Today’s story comes after the disciples have seen Jesus perform many miracles, teach crowds and tell many parables. He asks them two questions: who do people say the Son of Man is and Who do you say I am? Jesus already knows the answers to these questions. But in asking them he is signaling to us the importance of the answers. He is the Messiah, the one Israel has been waiting for.

Passage Text: Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSV)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)
I wonder how you may have heard others describe who Jesus is?  
I wonder why Jesus asked the disciples who people thought he was?  
I wonder why Jesus asked the disciples who they thought he was?  
I wonder what we would say if Jesus asked us who we thought he was?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):
I wonder why Jesus asked the disciples these questions? Didn’t he already know the answers?  
I wonder why it was important for the disciples to say who they thought Jesus was?  
What would you say if Jesus asked you those questions?  
I wonder why Jesus didn’t want them to tell anyone he was the Messiah?
Passage Overview: This week’s lesson follows right after Simon Peter calls Jesus the Messiah. From this point forward, the gospel of Matthew quickly moves towards Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. Here Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what will come. In his attempt to protect and defend Jesus, Peter shows he still doesn’t understand what it means for Jesus to be the Messiah.

Passage Text: Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV)

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)
I wonder what you think is the most important part of this story?
I wonder why Jesus told his disciples what was going to happen?
I wonder if it was hard for the disciples to hear Jesus say all these things?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):
I wonder why Jesus told his disciples what was going to happen?
I wonder what your reaction would have been if you were one of the disciples?
I wonder why Jesus told Peter not to defend him?
I wonder why Jesus says following him will be hard?