

Explore the Bible together as a family!



January 2021

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 it easier to talk about faith at home!

Sunday, Jan. 7 2021



Mark 1:4-11

Passage Overview: Today's celebration is annually referred to as "The Baptism of our Lord." On this day we commemorate the day our Lord Jesus Christ stood in the waters of the River Jordan and was baptized by his relative John the Baptist. This scene has great theological significance for our faith and identity in the Church. When we are baptized (often as babies!) we are united with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection – a truly profound mystery.

Passage Text: Mark 1:4-11

⁴ John the baptizer appeared^[a] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with^[b] water; but he will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;^[d] with you I am well pleased."

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

- I wonder why Christians are baptized?
- I wonder if you or your parents can recall when *you* were baptized?
- I wonder what it feels like to be called "God's Beloved"?
- I wonder why a dove appeared when Jesus was baptized?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

- I wonder why Christians are baptized?
- I wonder if you or your parents can recall when *you* were baptized?
- I wonder why a dove appeared when Jesus was baptized?
- I wonder why we use water for baptism?
- I wonder why Jesus had to be baptized?

John

1:43-51



Passage Overview: These verses describe the first apostles being called to follow Jesus. The invitation from the apostle Philip to Nathanael is particularly interesting: “Come and see.” With such a simple invitation – one without coercion or any body of evidence – Nathanael gets going. The Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ is all about coming to God and seeing what God is like. In Jesus Christ we are given the most intelligible revelation of who God is and what God is like.

Passage Text: John 1:43-51 (NRSV)

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you,^[a] you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

- I wonder why Philip and Nathanael followed Jesus so quickly?
- I wonder how Jesus already knew about Nathanael before they met?
- I wonder how it would have felt to follow Jesus?
- I wonder if you’ve ever seen God?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

- I wonder why Philip and Nathanael followed Jesus?
- I wonder how the apostles felt when they left their homes to follow Jesus?
- I wonder if you’ve ever seen God?
- I wonder how you might know that you’ve seen God?

Sunday, Jan. 24 2021

Mark 1:14-20



Passage Overview: In today's passage, four more apostles are called to follow Jesus. Like the story of Nathanael and Philip, today's disciples are quick to respond to Jesus' invitation. Unlike last week's passage, Jesus doesn't just tell his new disciples what they will see. Rather he tells them what he will teach them to do. The revelation of God in Christ isn't simply a theological exercise but an invitation to participate in God's movement in this world.

Passage Text: Mark 1:14-20 (NRSV)

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news^[a] of God,^[b] ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;^[c] repent, and believe in the good news."^[d]

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary):

I wonder if Simon, Andrew, James and John had heard about Jesus?

I wonder what they thought when Jesus spoke to them?

I wonder why they were so quick to leave their boats?

I wonder why Jesus wanted them to follow him?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

I wonder why Jesus meant by saying "kingdom of God has come near"?

I wonder what Jesus meant by "I will make you fishers of men"?

I wonder if it was an easy decision for the disciples to leave their boats/life/family?

I wonder what was so compelling about Jesus and his message that they immediately left?

Mark
1:21-28



Passage Overview: During Christmas, we celebrate the wonder of God’s humanity as revealed to us in the birth of Jesus. In Epiphany (our current season), we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as divine – God Himself. Today’s passage serves as one of these epiphanies or revelations. Jesus is revealed not simply as a moral teacher but as “the Holy One of God”.

Passage Text: Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV)

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^a commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

- I wonder how we know who Jesus is?
- I wonder who people in the Bible thought Jesus was?
- I wonder what it means that Jesus is God?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

- I wonder who people thought Jesus was? (Teacher? Preacher?)
- I wonder what people thought when Jesus was called “the Holy One of God”?
- I wonder why everyone was amazed to hear Jesus called this?
- I wonder what it means that Jesus is God?