

Family Devotional

From January 29, 2017

Play: Allow each person in your group to share what they would do if they were king or queen for a day? If you have a crown or tiara (or want to make your own) you might let the person wear it while sharing their decrees. Your decrees can be as silly or serious as you want them to be. For example: If I were king, I would make everyone wear slippers and eat cereal for lunch. I would give everyone a pony and never eat broccoli ever again.

When Jesus was on earth he was given the opportunity to be king. How did he choose to live?
Let's read about an unexpected way our Lord and King Jesus acted.

Read: John 13:3-17

To us washing people's feet might seem like a funny and unnecessary thing to do, but in the days Jesus lived on earth, people's feet would get extremely dirty. Walking was their main form of transportation and their streets were often dusty and dirty. It was customary for a servant to wash the feet of guest as they came to a meal. Who was the servant we read about in the story? Why do you think he did this?

Read: John 13:31-35

Think about all the stories you know about Jesus. Washing people's feet was one example of how he loved people. What are some other good examples of how Jesus loved people? (For inspiration read: John 4:7-10, Matthew 8: 1-4, Luke 2:41-51, Luke 18:15-17, Luke 22:42 & John 3:16)

How do you think Jesus wants us to show love, honor and mercy to those around us?

Read: James 2:1-13

Think about people you know that are a good example of God's love to you; this could be your parents, grandparents, a teacher or neighbor. What kind of things do they say or do to show you they are loving like Jesus?

Make a list of ways you can love others like Jesus this week. (Examples: obeying parents, smiling at others who look sad, sending a card to a family member you don't see often, helping a younger child, etc.) Post this list somewhere you can see it each day and ask Jesus to show you how you can love others with his kind of love.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on John 13:34 this week.

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me and showing me a good example of unconditional love. Help me show mercy to others like you do. Show me who needs an extra dose of love this week. Amen."