
FAITH @ HOME

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Some ideas for continuing Loving Truth through the week

Don't hesitate to explore the ideas of mercy, grace, forgiveness, and life change with children. You may need to rephrase the questions to match your child's vocabulary or life experience, or put it into a story about your life, but even toddlerhood isn't too young to talk about these ideas with music, stories, art, and concrete examples. If you or your kids missed the Family Ministry Moment on 9/13, catch it on the recorded livestream and share a bag of popcorn together while you talk about God's mercy and how we are changed by reading and listening to what He is saying to us. The don't-miss activity for really young children is highlighted in green font.

You might like to read Romans 11:25-12:2 in a few translations this week.

Knowledge (11:25-32)

Use this activity to expand on the concept of thankfulness for God's faithfulness in our lives.

- ? Has knowing something ever made you conceited or caused you to look down on someone else? What was the result?
- ? How do you think the kneeling man in this stained glass window feels?



Response (11:33-36)

- ? When has the realization of God's mercy made you break into a song – inward or outward – like this one?
- Create a song, dance, or art piece that expresses how you feel about God's mercy poured out on you. You can do this as a group or as a solo exercise.

You may want enjoy this made-for-West Hills playlist to help you think about God's mercy:

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/OfU3ZZSCGBvk04KgHGh8NP?si=C-W_Q0KwRG-LpFT7HZPjKw

Transformation (12:1-2)

- ? What is the stated purpose of renewing our minds?
- ? Think of a time when you did the best you could with what you knew at the time. What changed when you learned *more*?

- With a ruler or measuring tape, measure the distance from your forehead to your heart. How long is it? How long do you think it would take you to walk that far?
 - ? You may have heard the saying that the longest journey you will make in your life is from your head to your heart, referring to the journey from a brain understanding of Jesus' love to the life-changing heart experience of that love. When have you known something to be true in your head, but not acted on it?
 - ? Or – when have you learned or experienced something and been completely changed?

- You may be familiar with the story of the potato, the egg, and the coffee beans. Try this kid-friendly variation to illustrate the idea of being changed by an outside force (like God's word):
 - Put a very small potato, an egg, and a tea bag in three separate pans.
 - Add water to cover the potato and egg, and 2 cups of water to the tea bag. Cover the pans, bring them to a rolling boil. Turn off the heat and let them each rest, *covered*, for 12 minutes.
 - At the end of 12 minutes, observe how they have each been changed by this experience. The potato will have been made soft (and edible – it's not a waste!). The egg will have been made hard (and useful in a salad or as a snack). But discard the used tea leaves and notice that you have a completely different substance. The water has been transformed into a completely new kind of liquid – something flavorful, capable of helping to warm, heal or invigorate.
 - We know that God uses His word to change us, not only to make us life-giving and useful in the kingdom, but to completely transform us for our good and His glory. For any of this to happen, the potato, egg, and tea leaves had to spend time in the hot water in order to be changed. In order to be changed, we must spend time in His word, heart-ready for His transformational work.
 - We can learn something from each of these things which have been changed by the boiling water. Imagine that God's Word is the change agent of hot water.
 - ? How has God's word changed you?
 - ? How is it changing you now?
 - ? How is that change making you softened and useful in His kingdom?
 - ? How is it making you strong and ready for your calling?

- For little ones, sit down with playdough or clay. As you make something plain (a simple ball or a "snake"), talk about how God wants to change us from something special like the object you have made) into something even MORE wonderful. God loves us so much that He keeps changing us a little bit at a time to make us more like Him every single day (turn the ball or "snake" into a heart to represent God. Our little part in this growing and changing is to be ready to be changed. We can read our Bibles and ask Jesus to make us more loving like Him. And He will!