FAITH @ HOME WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 2020

Some ideas for continuing to think about "Faith Comes Standard" through the week

Don't hesitate to explore the ideas of sin and atonement with children. Toddlers begin to understand consequences and asking for and receiving forgiveness. As spiritual beings, we all long to be in right relationship with God. You can begin to teach children about what Jesus did to help them connect with God in simple language and keep building on it as they mature. God doesn't leave us hopeless, but "puts his laws (right) in our hearts!" We all need to know that faith comes standard through Jesus – it's accessible to us all!

You might like to read Hebrews 10:11-18 in a few translations this week.

Enjoy the WHC "Living in Hard Times" Spotify Playlist:

https://tinyurl.com/y3btmqlo

Want to add some titles to this playlist? Email the song and artist to info@whcomaha.org

The Old Ways

- You can learn a bit more about the tasks of the Levitical priests in a documentary-style video with models and explanations of the tabernacle and the priestly duties. This is about 30 minutes and probably most interesting for curious teens and adults because of the lecture teaching that accompanies the visuals: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tpmgs6_E8L8
- For a shorter background of the role of the priests in the book of Leviticus, check out this fun, doodle-style overview from The Bible Project: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ-FekWUZzE</u>
- ? What was the replacement for the priests' daily sacrifices?
- ? What does "for all time," mean to you?
- ➢ How do we get to God?
 - Supplies: clear jar or cup, Kleenex, rubber band, a few pennies, a spray bottle with water
 - Explain that the jar represents God.
 - Lay the tissue over the mouth of the jar, and secure it with a rubber band. Explain that this represents "sin," anything we do (or don't do) that keeps us apart from God
 - Explain that the pennies are people. Sin keeps us from getting to God. How can that change?
 - Show the spray bottle and explain that the spray bottle represents the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Gently spritz the Kleenex until the pennies drop into the cup.
 - Ask: Did the people do anything?
 - Help your kids make the connection that it was the work of the spray bottle (symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice and the Holy Spirit's work in their hearts) that broke the sin barrier ("forgiveness") and let the "people" come in. Just as it was impossible for the pennies to jump into the cup without that barrier being broken, Jesus breaks the barrier down so we can be in relationship with God.

Made New

Take some time to reflect, journal, or discuss some of these questions, adjusting the language to match your conversation partner(s).

- ? How does it feel to know that God has made you perfect through Jesus' sacrifice?
- ? How does it feel to know that God is making you holy?
- ? How do you sense God is working to make you holy right now? i.e. how is he shaping you to look more like him than you looked last week/last month/last year?
- ? Are there particular areas of your life where you sense God is molding and reshaping you?
- ? Is there anything we can or need to do to be forgiven?
- ? How can we respond knowing that everything we have every done or will ever do that separates us from God has already been atoned for?
- ? What are some possible responses to the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus?
- ? What do you think of this idea of hope based on Hebrews 10:14-16? "We have hope that He is going to make us eternally perfect, and that we are being transformed and shaped that way in the now. We're not going to be made perfect in this life, but through our circumstances and ongoing discipleship, He is refining us moment by moment, day by day."
- Give each person a bit of playdoh or other molding substance. As you play with it, talk about what you think it will be like when Jesus comes again. You might talk about how in heaven, nothing will hurt or be sad. Nothing will be wrong ever again. Until then, God is always at work, and he's working to help us be more like him. Just like the playdoh doesn't stay in one shape forever in our hands, God keeps molding and shaping us into something more and more beautiful.
- Can you make the mark?
 - Supplies: a cup and cotton balls, a waste basket and sheets of paper, or a laundry basket and balls
 - Set the target *an impossible distance* from the throw line
 - Take turns trying to get the item into the target.
 - Explain that we can't make the mark of perfection without God. Sometimes we want to believe there's something we can do to be more perfect or holy, but without God we absolutely miss the mark. If you want to extend the metaphor, you can have one person act as the intermediary (Jesus) and alley-oop the item into the target.