



KIDS FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for April 10-April 16, 2022

Jesus' Journey: *On the Road to Jerusalem*

Last Week: Jesus "fixed his face" towards Jerusalem, and what should have taken a few days took 5 months.

FOCUS: Luke 19:41-44 **Jesus Weeps Over the City, and His Entry into Jerusalem**

"As He drew near, He saw the city (of Jerusalem) and wept over it, 'If you had known, even you, especially in your day, the things that make for your peace...you did not know the time of your visitation.' "

BIG IDEA 1 – This week we're looking at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. When Jesus saw the city, he began to cry; Jesus knew just how many prophets he had sent to Jerusalem before him. Prophets like Isaiah, David, Daniel and more, to foretell of his coming, so the City of Peace would be ready for the Prince of Peace. When Jesus saw the city, and Jesus still being God in a human body, thus knowing all things; he knew they would reject him because they had also rejected the prophets sent before him. There was, however, a small remnant of people who did welcome Jesus into the city as he rode in on a donkey. They laid palm branches in front of Jesus' donkey showing that they received Jesus with peace. They were ready for their king to enter.

Q1- How would you describe peace? As Jesus cried over Jerusalem he said, "If you had known... the things that make for your peace..." What do you think Jesus meant by "make for your peace?" Can we make peace?

What is one thing in your life that you know if you did "it," it would lead to more peace in your life?

FOCUS: Numbers 6:24-26 **The Priestly Blessing – Shalom Peace**

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord makes His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace" (Shalom).

BIG IDEA 2 – This passage of scripture is actually a prayer that God, himself, prayed over Israel while they were exiled in the desert. God is the giver of peace, and he wants each of us to have a heavenly peace in our life that no one or no circumstance can take away from us. When times get hard (or even if everything is pretty good in your life) we can pray this prayer over ourselves or our friends and feel God's shalom (i.e., peace, wholeness, completeness). Isn't it amazing we can pray the same prayer God himself prays over us?

Q2- How often do you pray for yourself? How often do you pray for others? Where in your life do you need more peace from God?

FOCUS: Revelation 3:20 **"Hello? It's Jesus your friend!"**

"Now pay attention; I am standing at the door and knocking. If any of you hear My voice and open the door, then I will come in to visit with you and to share a meal at your table, and you will be with Me."

BIG IDEA 3 – Sometimes, it's easy to believe that God has more important things going on than listening to my prayers, let alone answering them! But this verse in Revelation shows us that Jesus is actually excited to spend time with us every day! Just like God sent messengers and prophets to Jerusalem before his first coming, Jesus is telling you and me today that he is "knocking" at the doors of our heart and seeing who will let him in before he comes again. *Let's open the door!*

Q3- Is the story of the bible more about humans trying to show their love to God, or God trying to show his love to humans? If you and Jesus had dinner together, what kind of things would you talk about? What are some ways we can "open the door" for Jesus in our lives?

Family Activity: What's for Dinner?

For this activity, we will be showing what it looks like to welcome someone over for dinner, similar to what Revelation 3:20 portrays.... Except there's a twist! Pick a day of the week to have a family dinner and put in on the calendar. When the time comes, tell each family member that one at a time, they can go into the kitchen and pick one item that they want for dinner. It can be A-NY-THING! Once each person has selected an item, they will sit at the dinner table with their food item HIDDEN. Then, you, portraying Jesus in Revelation 3:20, will "knock on the door [of the dining room]" and your kids will welcome you in. One at a time they will show what they want for dinner. It will, mostly likely, not be a very good combination of food but that's the fun of it. After all, who doesn't want gummy bears and chicken nuggets for dinner?

