

Explore the
Bible together
as a family!



September 2020

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 not only is it easier to talk about faith at home but it's a lot fun!

Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020



Matthew 18:15-20

Passage Overview: Today's lesson shows Jesus providing the early Church with disciplinary procedures. This process of disciplining wayward members was not a means of embarrassment nor punishment. Rather, the disciplinary process was a means of inviting stray members back into the Church and into a new way of being in the community. Christ concludes by promising that He will always be in the Church and its community.

Passage Text: Matthew 18:15-20 (NRSV)

15 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. **16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

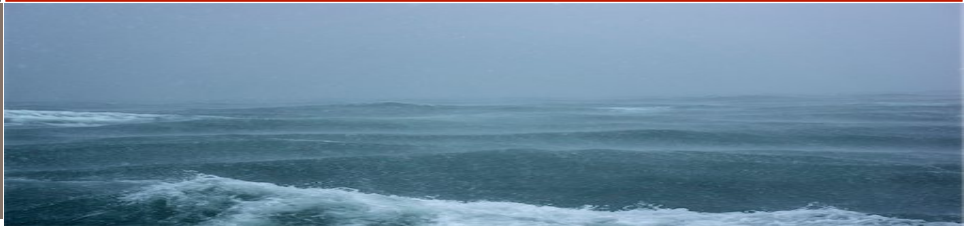
I wonder if you've ever gotten in trouble before?
I wonder if you've ever gotten your feelings hurt?
I wonder what it feels like to say, "I'm sorry"?
I wonder what it feels like to say, "I forgive you"?
I wonder where you've seen or heard God in your life?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

I wonder why Jesus gave the Church community rules?
I wonder what it feels like to apologize? I wonder what it feels like to be forgiven?
I wonder what it feels like to forgive someone else?
I wonder what it means when Jesus says He will be present when two or three are gathered?

Matthew

18:21-35



Passage Overview: In today's lesson Jesus gives examples for how "big" our forgiveness should be. In the story, a servant owed a king ten thousand talents (which would have been 150,000 years of pay and weighed nearly 204,000kg)! The servant's friend owed him one hundred denarii (which have been 1/600,000th his own debt). The difference in their forgiveness is laughable. Additionally, to forgive 77 times was an invitation to stop counting the number of times one forgave. Whoever keeps count has not forgiven at all.

Passage Text: Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. **23** "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. **24** When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; **25** and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. **26** So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' **27** And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' **29** Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' **30** But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. **31** When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. **32** Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' **34** And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. **35** So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

I wonder why Jesus says that his friends should forgive others "77 times"?
 I wonder if you've ever forgiven someone before?
 I wonder if you've ever been forgiven before?
 How does it feel to know that God loves you no matter what?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

I wonder what it feels like to apologize? I wonder what it feels like to be forgiven?
 I wonder what it feels like to forgive someone else?
 I wonder if you've ever had a hard time forgiving someone?
 What would you have a hard time forgiving? How would God forgive that person/thing?

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020



Matthew 20:1-16

Passage Overview: Today's lesson from Matthew in which having seen Jesus do amazing things and heard him teach difficult lesson, the disciples begin to pepper Jesus with all kinds of questions. They are trying to make sense of all they have seen and heard. And as is typical of Jesus, he doesn't outright answer their questions but instead tells them a parable. Jesus tells them this parable in response to them asking what they will receive in return following Jesus.

Passage Text: Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. **2** After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. **3** When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; **4** and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. **5** When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. **6** And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' **7** They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' **8** When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' **9** When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. **10** Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. **11** And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, **12** saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' **13** But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? **14** Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. **15** Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' **16** So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

I wonder what a laborer is? Have you ever done a job that you got paid for?

I wonder what it was like to be the first workers? Or what it was like to be the last workers?

I wonder why the landowner was so generous to the last workers?

I wonder how the landowner is?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

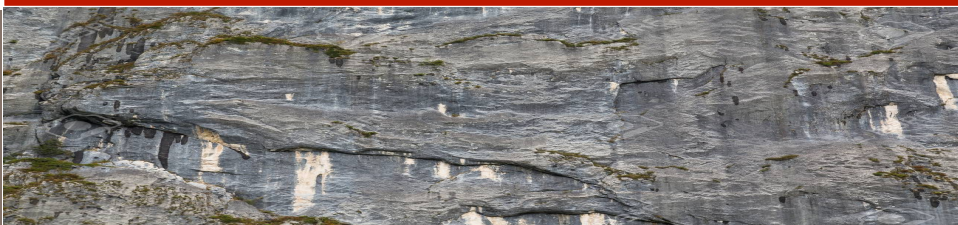
Have you ever done a job you got paid for?

I wonder what it was like to be the first laborers? What about the last laborers?

I wonder why the landowner paid them all equally?

Matthew

21:23-32



Passage Overview: Like last week, this passage finds people asking Jesus lots of questions. Though it is not the disciples this time, rather it's the priests and elders of the temple who are trying to trip him up. They question what authority he has to be performing miracles and preaching to the masses. Jesus answers their question by pointing to past prophets and asking the priests and elders where the prophets got their authority.

Passage Text: Matthew 21:23-32 (NRSV)

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" **24** Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. **25** Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' **26** But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." **27** So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' **29** He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. **30** The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. **31** Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Table Talk Questions (Preschool - Early Elementary)

I wonder why Jesus chose to answer them by telling a parable?
 I wonder how the first son felt when he told his father no? Or when he changed his mind?
 I wonder how the second son felt when he said "yes" but then didn't do as he promised?
 I wonder how the father felt when the first son changed his mind?

Table Talk Questions (Elementary and Older):

I wonder why the chief priests and elders were questioning Jesus?
 I wonder why Jesus often answered people with a parable or another question?
 I wonder why Jesus told them the story of these two sons?
 I wonder why Jesus compared the first son to so-called "unrighteous" people who heard and believed John's teaching?