

## the goal

To engage One Place families in conversations with their children about the Good Land Building Project. We want to help kids ask God what role they will play in the future vision of One Place Church. We believe walking through this journey as an entire family will help everyone grow in an understanding of God's view on what giving means. This is a great faith building opportunity for your children!



## tips for engaging

- Don't be afraid of silence - we want everyone to think through the answers.
- Don't answer the questions for your kids - but since we want the whole family engaged, don't "not" answer at all either.
- Don't be afraid to rephrase the question if they don't seem to understand it.

## when to do it

- **Once a week** - it doesn't need to be long (maybe 15 minutes), but be committed to making it a priority in your schedule. Designate a day/time that works with your family's schedule that is typically less stressful
- **After a meal** - Breakfast or Dinner • In the morning or before bedtime

## what do i need

- **This guide**
- **Bible to read from** - if you don't have one, you can use an online Bible like [www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com) or app like "You Version." The New Living Translation (NLT) translation is good choice for ease of reading with kids.

## how do i engage the whole family

- **Take turns reading the Bible story** from scripture.
- **Encourage everyone to talk.** Call on kids by name to speak
- **Pray together** - take short turns praying.
- Be open in sharing with your kids - they will learn from you when you are open to sharing a struggle - or a story of how God has grown or changed you.
- **Come up with one action item** that you can do as a family to help you apply the story to your own life.

# family devotional 1 // Jesus feeds 5000

## week of October 22

READ John 6:1-13 out loud together as a family.

### DIGGING IN

- Why were so many people gathering around Jesus? (*Verse 2*)
- When Jesus asked Philip about feeding all the people what was his answer? (*Verse 7*)
- Who did Andrew say had food in the Crowd, and how much food did he have? (*Verse 9*)
- What did Jesus do with the little boy's lunch? (*Verse 11*)
- How many baskets of leftovers were left by the people after they finished eating? (*Verse 13*)

### APPLICATION

The crowd was too big for Jesus' disciples to feed. They didn't have the food, or the money to buy the food. I'm sure they had no hope of feeding everyone when they only found one little boy who had packed a lunch. However, they forgot that they were with Jesus, God's only son, who could do things no one else could do. I'm very happy that the little boy gave his lunch to Jesus, even though he must have thought, "What good is my small gift going to do for all these people?" When we give a gift to Jesus like this little boy did, He blesses it, and then it is used by God. You never know what God can do with your gift because He is more powerful than we can imagine. He does want us to be a part of his plan and be willing to ask Him what he wants us to do. Then we give, trusting that he will do more than we could have imagined!

### FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Have you ever thought about giving something away that you couldn't replace?
- Have you ever wanted to help with something but you didn't think you could do enough to make a difference?
- Why is it hard to remember that Jesus can do things that we can't do?
- What does this story make you think about what kids can do to be a part of Jesus' plan?
- Start asking Jesus now what He is asking you to do to be apart.

### WRAP UP

The disciples had seen Jesus perform miracles already, but they still thought feeding 5000 people would be impossible for Him. However the little boy in the story trusted Jesus enough to give him all his lunch. This was a big sacrifice for him! Jesus took this small but sacrificial gift blessed it and we're still learning about what he did thousands of years later.

**MAIN POINT - Jesus uses our generosity to do big things**

### PRAY

Pray together as a family, thank God for all he has given your family. Thank him specifically for something special that your family has, remembering that all gifts are from God. Pray for our church, that Jesus would help us accomplish the awesome task of building this house for One Place Church. Start asking God now what he is asking you to do to be a part of this vision.

# family devotional 2 // zaccheus

week of October 29

READ Luke 19:1-10 out loud together as a family.

## DIGGING IN

- What are 2 things we learn about Zaccheus from verses 2? (*Verse 2 - tax collector, rich*)
- Where was Zaccheus when Jesus spoke to him? (*Verse 4-in a tree*) Why was he there? (*he was short and couldn't see*)
- What did other people think of Zaccheus? (*Verse 7-they didn't like him, he is a sinner*)
- How did the time Jesus spent with Zaccheus impact him? (*Verse 8-his life was changed - made him want to give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back anyone he had stolen from*)

## APPLICATION

Zaccheus was a man who was not very well liked by others - he was a tax collector and even was known to take more than his share from people. And even so, he had a desire to see Jesus as He walked through town - so much so that he climbed a tree to do it. God sees us no matter where we are and He wants to engage us - no matter what we have done. Jeremiah 29:13 says that if we look for God wholeheartedly we WILL find Him. Because Jesus took time to be with Zaccheus that day - and because Zaccheus was open and responsive, his life was changed forever.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Have you ever gone out of your way to see someone? Who was it and what did you have to do?
- When we spend time with Jesus, it helps us realize that nothing we have ( money or possessions) is worth more than knowing HIM. What are some things that you would have a hard time giving up right now if asked to?
- How has Jesus changed your life?
- What are some ways we can spend time with Jesus and get to know Him better? (praying, reading our Bible, attending church, worship) How can we encourage each other as a family to follow Jesus?
- Are there things getting in the way of you running after Jesus whole heartedly?

## WRAP UP

Zaccheus went from being a stingy thief to a man who was willing to share his possessions with others. We can be changed by Jesus too when we put Him first and let Him have control of our earthly possessions. We just have to be willing to follow Jesus and seek after Him.

**MAIN POINT** God loves life change! When we give, we get to be a part of life change as it happens.

## PRAY

Pray together as a family that you will treasure knowing Jesus and helping Him accomplish His mission here on earth more than you treasure money or possessions. If you struggle with this area, ask God to help you trust Him. If you don't feel like you know Jesus well or even love Him, ask Him to draw you closer to Him in a relationship that is personal.

# family devotional 3 // elijah & the widow

## week of November 4

READ 1 Kings 17:8-16 out loud together as a family.

### DIGGING IN

- Why did Elijah go to the widow for water and bread? (*Verse 9- The Lord told him he had instructed a widow to feed him*)
- What did the widow say when Elijah asked her for bread? (*Verse 12-That she had no bread and only enough flour and oil left for one meal*)
- Did Elijah ask her to feed her family first or give the bread to him first? (*Verse 13 - give to Elijah first*)
- Why did Elijah tell her not to be afraid? (*Verse 14-The Lord says he will provide enough flour and oil for them to eat until the rain comes and the crops grow again*)
- How did God provide for their food even though they only had enough left for one meal? (*Verse 16 - She always had enough flour left in the container to make a meal*)

### APPLICATION

The Bible teaches that every good gift comes from God (*James 1:17*). Every talent that you have comes from God (*Ephesians 2:10*). This means that it is still God who fills your pantry daily. You have been given the ability to work and earn the money that you buy groceries with. Without God we can do NOTHING (*John 15:5*). So our daily meals are just as much a miracle of God as the widows. Can we have the same grateful heart that she must have had at the miracle? Can we consider all we have a gift of God to be shared with others?

### FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Has anyone ever asked you to share the last of something? (ie. The last piece of cake etc.) - What was it? How did it make you feel?
- Is it hard or easy to share something of yours?
- How does it make you feel to give something of yours to someone else?
- Is it easier to give something you have a lot of or a little of?
- Should we only be generous with things we have a lot of?
- What might happen if you are selfish and never give to others, or to God?

### WRAP UP

Even though the Widow had very little, God trusted her to feed Elijah. She never went without food because God blessed her with just enough for the next meal. She didn't ask God why me, she trusted and gave generously.

**MAIN POINT** **When we honor God first with what we have, He provides for our needs in miraculous ways!**

### PRAY

Pray together as a family and ask God to help you have the same generous heart towards others and Him as the Widow had. Ask Him to show you ways you can be generous – and then to give you the courage to obey.

# family devotional 4 // mary's gift

## week of November 11

READ John 12:1-8 out loud together as a family.

### DIGGING IN

- What did Mary put on Jesus' feet? (*Verse 3 - a jar of expensive perfume*)
- How much was it worth? (*Verse 5 - a year's wages*)
- Did people think it was a good idea or a bad idea? Why? (*Verse 4-8 - Judas thought it was a waste, Jesus said it was a good thing*)
- What did Judas think should have been done with the perfume instead? (*Verse 3 - sold and given to the poor*)

### APPLICATION

We all have different things that are valuable to us. For some, that item may cost thousands of dollars, for another it may cost a few dollars. Jesus isn't interested in each of us giving Him things that are worth the same amount as much as He is in us being willing to give him something that is sacrificial to us. When we give something that is hard, it can demonstrate: 1) our love for that person 2) our faith in God to provide. Mary chose this day to give something of great value – but in the end, it was worth even more because she gave it out of devotion.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION

- What does the word sacrifice mean to you?
- How can giving something sacrificially show love for others?
- Has there ever been a time when someone has given a sacrificial gift to you? How did you feel receiving it? What did it tell you about the other person?
- What are some things that stop us from giving up something really valuable or something we love?

### WRAP UP

When Mary gave a sacrificial gift of perfume - worth a year's worth of wages - she did it out of love and devotion to Jesus. There are times in life when we have the opportunity to give in a way that doesn't make sense to others, but we want to do it because we love Jesus. Jesus looks at those times and treasures them, because it shows our love and devotion to Him. It also demonstrates that earthly possessions don't have control over us. Could we have hearts that give sacrificially to show our love for Jesus?

**MAIN POINT** We show our love for Jesus and our trust in Him when we give sacrificially!

### PRAY

Pray together and ask God to show you as a family what earthly treasure you are holding on to that could be given for eternal treasure as you participate in The Good Land Building Project. Ask Him to give you the courage to step out in faith and give sacrificially to show your love for Him.

# family devotional 5 // the widow's mite

## Saturday, November 18

READ Mark 12:41-44 out loud together as a family.

### DIGGING IN

- What was Jesus watching at the Temple? (*Verse 41- The crowds as they put their offerings in the collection box*)
- What did the widow put in the collection box? (*Verse 42-Two small coins*)
- What did Jesus say to the disciples about the Widows Gift ? (*Verse 43- She had given more than all the others who had given - even the rich who had given a lot*)
- Why did Jesus say she had given a lot? (*Verse 44- She gave everything she had to live on*)
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### APPLICATION

An important truth here is that it's not about the amount we give God, but the heart we give it with. The Bible says, "God loves a cheerful giver." (*2 Corinthians 9:7*) Pastor Pace helps us to understand it's not about equal gifts but equal sacrifice. Can we have the heart of this widow who though she had very little, gave a much bigger offering to God out of her sacrifice? Our gift to God can mean just as much, or even more to God as the gift of anyone else.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Have you ever thought you didn't have enough to give to God like some others do?
- Do you think the widow might have been embarrassed that she had such a small offering?
- Did God see it as a small offering?
- Have you ever wanted to give all the money you have away?
- Should a person not give an offering to God because they only have a little to give?

### WRAP UP

No matter how much a person has they can give a big offering to God, because God knows how much we have and knows if it makes us happy to give to Him. The widow in the Bible gave two mites (in our time this would be around \$1 to \$2). It wasn't a lot of money, but she didn't have a lot. She gave all the money she could, so it was a big gift to God. As kids you may not have a lot of money, but you can still give an offering to God that is big for you.

**MAIN POINT** God is more interested in our heart when we give than in the specific amount that we give!

### PRAY

Pray together as a family and ask God to help us give a big offering with a happy heart. If giving makes you grumpy, ask God to show you how to give cheerfully. Thank God now as you prepare to give as a family to A Place Called Home!

## involving children in your family's plan to give to “the good land building project”

In Deuteronomy 6 we find instructions to keep the things of God in front of our children regularly as we go through life. They are constantly creating a world view as they see how we make decisions and are lead by our faith in Jesus. This is a great time to peel back the curtain and allow kids to see how your faith leads you to ask God what he's calling you to do to be a part of The Good Land Building Project. Make it a part of your everyday conversations this month and invite them to ask questions about what they don't understand. Try to make your sacrificial investment in God's plan as tangible for them as you can by explaining and dreaming together about possible ways for your family to sacrifice to make room to give to The Good Land Building Project.

**When you make your first gift, come together at the family table and write the check together, pray over it, and celebrate that your family get's to be a part of God's vision for our church.**

