Faith at Home- Lectionary Edition

Sunday, May 3, 2020

\*John 10: 1-10 The Good Shepherd

 Many children don’t have a strong connection with sheep, unless they grew up on a farm, so I would suggest focusing on Jesus as the gate and following Jesus. Your family could play a game like “Simon Says” but changing that to “Jesus Says” and letting different members of the family take the leader’s role. Talk afterwards about what it means to follow Jesus today. What does each family member think Jesus is calling them to do and be?

Acts 2:42-47 Early Christian Community

 Sharing things both within the community and with those in need is the theme of this passage. Two ways families might enact these aspects of community could be the following: 1) During a family meal create a ritual where each person shares someplace that they’ve seen God in action that day. You could call it a God sighting or God spotting, whether that is in relationships or in nature or something that was seen in media or read in a book. This inspires hope during this time. 2) Share either food or clothing with a local agency caring for those in need. Invite each family member to contribute something to this sharing that they value.

\*Psalm 23 The Lord is My Shepherd

 This most well-known of all psalms can be a week of memorizing and reciting it to one another, perhaps drawing a picture of your favorite verse and sharing why it is important to you. This psalm has been important to many as a source of comfort and may be just what a family member needs during this time of anxiety over the pandemic. My Shepherd Will Supply My Need- Mississippi COVID 19 Virtual Choir, Enjoy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9XUSlzeRQ8>

1 Peter 2:19-25 By His Wounds You Have Been Healed

 This is a challenging passage especially when put in its larger context of slavery (vs. 18). I would encourage families to work on the latter part that concerns Jesus, particularly the words above, “by his wounds you have been healed.” Most children understand what it means to be punished for something they did that was wrong, but what if someone else stepped in to take the punishment for you. This is one view of what Jesus’ life and death mean. This can be a good time to have a conversation about forgiveness and what healing might look like when it is something other than illness.

\* If your church uses either Godly Play or Young Children and Worship for your children’s ministry, the Parable of the Good Shepherd Story incorporates 2 of the 4 lectionary passages this week. If you have paper patterns for the story (as can be found in the back of the *Young Children and Worship* book) these could be mailed with the script for home use.