

3 FOR THIRTY

Every day, set aside 30 minutes to sit down together as a family to do the following:

1. Reading

- Spend 10 minutes reading Matthew 17:24-27; 18:1-9 together.
- Divide it among your family so that everyone gets a chance to read.
- Ask the question, “*what stands out to you from this text?*”

Matthew 17:24-27 – The Temple Tax

“24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, ‘Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?’ 25 ‘Yes, he does,’ he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. ‘What do you think, Simon?’ he asked. ‘From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?’ 26 ‘From others,’ Peter answered. ‘Then the children are exempt,’ Jesus said to him. 27 ‘But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.’”

Matthew 18:1-9 – The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

“1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ 2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.’”

Causing to Stumble

6 ‘If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.’”

2. Praying

- Spend 10 minutes praying together.
- Find a quiet space that your family can gather together. Adults, lead the prayer time and invite your students to join in.
- Ask the questions, “*who do we need to pray for?*”; “*what needs are we aware of within our family, friend, and neighbor circles?*”

3. Journaling

- Spend 10 minutes journaling together.
- Have paper and something to write with ready.
- Write down what stood out to you from the text you read as a family.
- Write down what you can remember from prayer time. (Thoughts about specific people, places, or events that were prayed for, as well as any personal thoughts.)

4. Repeat Daily