

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of JULY 30/JULY 1

The Ultimate Question

#1 *Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. Luke 9:18-24*

Who are you? Take a minute and have everyone in your family tell three things about themselves. Now look at the Bible lesson. Jesus asked His disciples who He was. Peter gave the right answer. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. If Jesus asked you who you think Jesus is, what would you say? Now go around and have everyone describe something about who Jesus is. For example, you could say that He loves people by telling some of the things He did. Now go back and tell about who you are once more. This time say, "I am someone who loves Jesus." Be sure to let others know as well today.

Pray: Jesus you are God's Son and my Savior from sin. Thank you for loving me and help me to tell others that I am yours. Amen.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of **JULY 30/JULY 1**

The Ultimate Question

#2 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1*

Do you like to eat nuts? How about salted-in-the-shell peanuts? If you have some, get one out right now. If not, just pretend you have one. The question is do you believe there is a peanut inside that shell? Are you sure? How do you know? You have never seen it before. In fact, no one has ever seen inside that shell. Most people would say yes because they have had peanuts in the shell before there is always a peanut in the shell. Yet, you still have to have faith that it is there because you can't see it. What other things do you believe in even though you can't see them?

The Bible reading above tells about faith in the same way. Faith is believing even when you can't see something. We can't see Jesus, but we believe He is our Savior from sin. We believe He died on the cross and rose again. We believe that we are forgiven and will be in heaven with Jesus one day. We can't prove any of these things, but just like the peanut in the shell, we have faith and believe it. We believe these things about Jesus because God tells us in the Bible that these things are true. When we believe in Jesus and follow Him, even though we have never seen Him, that is faith. Jesus promises that He is real and that He is worth believing in.

Pray: Jesus, help me to believe that you are my Savior and to share that Good News with others. Amen.