



Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

FAITH FAMILY TALKS

CBFNC is offering this resource from the CBF Children's Ministry Network, to our state fellowship to provide families weekly spiritual conversation starters. Our hope is that this resource empowers parents to have more faith-filled conversations at home.

Listen. Talk. Go.

April 2023

*Written by JD Granade
Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries, NYC*



Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

WEEK OF APRIL 2 (PALM/PASSION SUNDAY)

Listen

Read Romans 8:33-39.

Paul reminds us, "It is Christ Jesus who died..." This week is called "Holy Week," and it's the week when we focus on the story of Jesus' death and what led up to it. Some of the stories from that week are Jesus spending time with his friends, probably hoping to teach them a few more things and show them how to follow God before he left them. He rode into the city on a small donkey instead of a mighty horse, washed his friends' feet, had a meal with them, and asked that the people in power show kindness to all of God's people. When Jesus died on Friday that week, his friends must have been heartbroken! They had been so close with Jesus, and now they felt as separated as you can be from him. But they weren't truly separated; they still remembered all of the wonderful things he'd taught them, and they would always have the love he shared with them.

Talk.

- If you knew it was your last time seeing a friend or loved one, what would you choose to do with them?
- Do you have a favorite story from Holy Week? If so, why is it your favorite? (If not, be sure to pay attention to the Bible stories you hear this week.)
- What's an important lesson you've learned from someone close to you? From Jesus?

Dear God, when things are sad or upsetting, thank you for being with us. Help us remember that nothing can separate us from your love and that you'll always stick with us. Amen

Go.

Find family photos (maybe in photo albums or on social media) and find people who you've been separated from—maybe they live far away or have even died. Tell stories about them and share what you remember liking about them. Maybe grown-ups have some memories to share about people that kids don't even remember. Take time to be sad about that separation if you'd like, and also remember that you're still connected to these loved ones through stories, memories, and love.



This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.

Listen. Talk. Go.



FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

WEEK OF APRIL 9 (EASTER SUNDAY)

Listen.

Read Romans 8:33-39.

Paul doesn't stop with, "It is Christ Jesus who died..." but goes on to say "even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us." This week begins the season of Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection when he rose back to life. This is the time that Christians have spent Lent and Holy Week preparing for, and it's finally here! Paul gives the Romans, and us, a reminder of one reason that's important. Easter shows us just how holy Jesus is, that he truly was a perfect example of God's love. And with that, he loves us, defends us, and wants what's best for us. This week, and always, we remember that nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love!

Talk

- Since we aren't able to see Jesus with our eyes, we have to find other things around us that remind us of him and his love. Can each person name three things that remind them of Jesus or of his love?
- What are some ways you can show other people what Jesus' love is like?

Dear God, we're so excited to celebrate your Good News always, but especially this week! Thank you for your promise of life and love. Help us spread that love with everyone. Amen

Go.

Easter reminds us of new life, but so does springtime! Have a "New Life Scavenger Hunt" this week and see how many things you can find from the list below. You can do this together or make it a competition!

New Life Scavenger Hunt:

White flowers	Bees (<i>look or flying or listen for buzzing</i>)
Purple flowers	Pollen (<i>even if you don't see it, do you feel it affecting you?</i>)
Yellow flowers	A baby animal (<i>what kind did you see?</i>)
Pink flowers	Rain (<i>What does it feel like?</i>)
Green leaves	<i>Is it different from winter rain or snow?</i>
Birds (<i>look or flying or listen for chirping</i>)	A rainbow





Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

WEEK OF APRIL 16

Listen.

Read Romans 8:33-39.

Paul, and those who learned from him, wrote many letters to churches they had started or visited all over the world (at least the world they knew). This month we'll be focusing on one passage from a letter he wrote to a church in Rome. There is a lot we can learn from this letter, but it's also important to remember that it is a couple of thousand years old and written across the world from us. Rome was also very different from Paul and Jesus' home, so he was doing the best he could to help them understand what it means to follow Jesus, even if they were separated by space and culture. But no matter when or where we read these words, many of us understand what it's like to feel separated. Paul reminds us that nothing—not even the things that separate us from each other—can separate us from God's love!

Talk.

- Paul was writing this letter to help the Romans learn and address some problems they were having. How do you think the Romans were feeling for him to say this?
- What's the farthest you've ever been from home? What were some things that were different about that place?
- Have you ever felt separated from someone you love? Were you reunited? How did it feel?

Dear God, we know that you are the same God who has inspired people in all of history. Thank you for connecting us with you and each other. Help us always feel your love. Amen

Go.

This week you'll be doing a science experiment! Find as many sticky things around your house as you can—different kinds of glue, tape, putty, or whatever else you find! Then get items that weigh the same and can get messed up (maybe pennies or water bottles). Finally, get a surface that can also be messed up like a piece of plywood or cardboard. Use your sticky substances to stick the items to the surface and be sure to label each one. Track the order that the items fall off and determine which substance is stickiest. If there are any still standing at the end of the week, try and pull them off and see which is hardest. Remember that God's love sticks to us stronger than these or any substance we can think of; we can NEVER be separated!



This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.

Listen. Talk. Go.



Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

WEEK OF APRIL 23

Listen.

Read Romans 8:33-39.

Do you know what a rhetorical question is? (You're allowed to answer that.) It's a question that doesn't really need an answer because the answer is so obvious. Paul asks several rhetorical questions in our passage this month. See if you can find them. Just in case the answer—that nothing can separate us from God's love—isn't obvious, he goes on to make sure we know that and tells us it's like winning a "sweeping victory"! If separation is something negative here, then connection is its opposite: positive! Where there is separation in death, there is connection in life. Where there is separation in hate, there is connection in love. We are connected to God through love, no matter what! We also get to make connections with the other people God loves (which is everyone) by showing them that same love.

Talk

- What are ways we separate ourselves from other people (as individuals or whole groups)? Is that Christ-like love?
- What are ways we can build connections where there are separations?
- Can you name something that could separate you from God's love? (That's a rhetorical question, because the answer is NO!)

Dear God, we know that you love all people. Show us how to treat everyone with your love, and help us build connections instead of separations. Amen

Go.

Build connections this week through random acts of kindness. Pay attention to chances you have to be kind, and then do them! It should be something you wouldn't normally do so that you can make a connection where there may have been separation. See if you can meet someone new (in a safe way) or show kindness to someone you might not want to. Find a time every day where your family can share their random act of kindness that day.

JD is a former children's minister and currently works with Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries in New York City.



This resource is produced by CBFNC's Children's Ministry Team.

Listen. Talk. Go.