

heartfelt Newsletter

June 2010

SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:51-62

THEME: Celebrate Your Five Senses!

family
'round
the
table

EATING TOGETHER



Decorations:

Place a beautiful vase of fragrant flowers in the center of your dinner table; add a scented candle or other organic items that have varied textures

MENU

Grilled Ham-Steak, Mixed Vegetables & Rice, Strawberry Shortcake

Blessing:

*Back of the bread is the flour,
And back of the flour is the mill,
And back of the mill is the wind and the rain,
And the Father's will. Amen.*



PLAYING TOGETHER

Activity One: Taking Your Senses for a Walk

Materials: your neighborhood, pencils and small paper pads

Directions:

1. Explain that the family is going on a neighborhood walk and along the way you will use your senses.
2. During the first block, have family listen carefully. Stop at the end of the block, or at the end of five minutes of walking, and give your family a chance to share what they hear. How many different sounds can you identify?
3. During the next portion of the walk, ask your family to identify smells. As soon as a family member identifies a smell, write it down. How many different smells can you identify?
4. As you head for home, invite family members to write down what they see. Stop on your front porch and give your family a chance to compare notes about what they have seen. Did anyone see anything no one else saw?

Activity Two: What's that Taste?

Materials: Pack some snacks in small bags and hand them out before your walk. [Salty chips or pretzels, apple slices, grapes, lemon slices, candy drops...]

Directions:

1. Share the snack during your walk and talk about each taste.
2. Invite family members to choose their favorite taste.
3. Talk about all of the different textures that foods have and vote on favorite taste sensations.



STUDYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

• In this passage Jesus' ministry is changing. He and the disciples are on their way to Jerusalem as the passage begins. Imagine they are walking along noticing the sights and sounds and smells of the road. What do you think they saw, heard and smelled?

- Invite a family member to find and read Luke 9:51-62.

Reflections Questions for the Family

1. How do the disciples respond when the Samaritan city does not receive them well? How does Jesus answer them?
2. Have you ever been anywhere that you did not feel welcome? What did you do?
3. As they continue walking, people try to join Jesus. He responds to everyone, but he says something different to each person. Which of Jesus' answers do you like best? Which answer do you not understand?
4. Read verse 58 again. How do you think Jesus feels about his situation? Do you think Jesus misses his home in Nazareth?
5. Imagine that you are walking on the road and Jesus comes near. What would you say to him? What would you like Jesus to say to you?



PRAYING TOGETHER

- Place a lighted candle and an open Bible in the middle of the table to create a worship center.
- Open a time of prayer by reading together Psalm 65:5-8.
- Invite family members to share their joys and concerns. Encourage each person to offer a sentence prayer for a joy or a concern and to pray for the person sitting on their right.
- Close by saying or singing the first verse and chorus of “This Is Our Father’s World” [<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/t/i/tismyfw.htm>] or “For the Beauty of the Earth” [<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/f/b/fbeauty.htm>]