FAMILY DEVOTION · CLOBBER PASSAGES, WEEK 5

Room for Every Name

For families to share at home this week. About 15 minutes, best for ages 4–10, with something for grown-ups too.

READ TOGETHER · ISAIAH 56:5–7 AND ACTS 8:26–39

A long time ago, there was a rule that said some people couldn't come into God's house because their bodies were different. They had to stay outside. But then God sent a prophet named **Isaiah** with a new message: "I'm bringing them in! I'll give them a special name that will last forever. My house will be a house of prayer for ALL people."

Later, a man from the country of Ethiopia was riding home in his chariot, reading Isaiah. He was one of the people who used to be left outside. God sent a helper named **Philip** to sit with him and tell him about Jesus. When they came to some water, the man asked, "Is there anything that keeps me from being baptized?" And the answer was: nothing! Philip baptized him right there.

Grown-ups, you might say: Families come in lots of shapes. Some kids have a mom and a dad, some have one parent, some live with grandparents, and some have two moms or two dads. Some people love in different ways, too. God made all of us, and there is room for every family and every person in God's house.

TALK ABOUT IT

For younger kids:

- How does it feel when someone says your name in a happy way?
- Who are some people you love who live in a different kind of family than yours?

For older kids:

- Have you ever seen someone left out because they were different? What could you do to help?
- Why do you think God wanted Philip to go find the man from Ethiopia?

For grown-ups to share:

- Tell about someone you love who has died. What do you remember about the way they loved God or loved others?

TRY THIS: OUR FAMILY STAR WALL

You'll need paper (yellow if you have it), scissors, markers, and tape.

1. Cut out a bunch of paper stars. Grown-ups can help with the cutting.
2. On some stars, write the names of people you love who have died, the saints of your family.
3. On other stars, write the names of everyone in your family today, and friends you love.
4. Make one extra star for someone who might feel left out, a new kid, a lonely neighbor, or someone whose family looks different from yours.
5. Tape all the stars on a wall or door together, and say each name out loud as it goes up.

Family challenge for the week: Look at your extra star. This week, find a way to help that person feel welcome: sit with them, invite them to play, or tell them, "I'm glad you're here."

Tip: Grown-ups, All Saints is a gentle time to talk with children about loved ones who have died. Share a happy memory, and let kids ask any questions they have.

PRAY TOGETHER

One person reads a line, and everyone repeats it with the motions.

Dear God, (fold hands)
thank you for knowing my name. (point to yourself)
Thank you for all the saints (point up to the sky)
who loved you before us. (hands on heart)
Thank you that your house (make a roof shape with your arms)
has room for everyone! (arms open wide)
Amen! (clap!)