

Five Spiritual Senses Parent Guide

The Monna books were written to help children connect to the true meaning of Christian holidays through the beauty of God's creation. In this case, Monna searches for Easter gifts around her home and finds them in the wildlife, blossoms, and new life we are given every spring. She also finds the Giver of all good gifts Himself, Jesus.

Discussion

This book is based on Matthew 7:7-8
"Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives,
and he who seeks finds,
and to him who knocks it will be opened."

What does it mean to your little one to seek something?

What would your child ask for if they knew the answer would be "yes!"?

Dive Deeper

Monna learns some new words while searching for the Easter bunny. These words were chosen carefully from scripture. Read these verses with your little ones for further discussion.

Faith: Proverbs 3:5-6

Love: Matthew 22:35-37

Grace: Ephesians 2:8-9

Power: Isaiah 40:28-31

Might: Job 9:4

Giver of Good Gifts: Ephesians 3:14-20

Activities

Go on your own nature walk to search for evidence of Easter rebirth in your neighborhood. What do your children spot? Monna found a rainbow of colors on her walk. What colors can you and your children find?

Paint Easter eggs like the ones Monna was given. Encourage your children to interpret Power, Faith, Grace, Might, and Love using their own unique creativity and artistic expression. Why did they decorate the eggs like they did?

Christmas in the Woods **Parent Guide**

The Monna books were written to help children connect to the true meaning of Christian holidays through the beauty of God's creation. In this case, Monna wants to celebrate Christmas with Jesus. She searches for Him in the woods around her home and finds His joy-filled presence in the wildlife, weather, and beauty of winter.

Discussion

This book is based on Peter 1:8:

"Although you have not seen Jesus, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy."

What are other things that we know are there, but we cannot see?

Your child has never met Jesus in person. But is Jesus a stranger? Or a friend?

What does joy mean to your child? Is it the same as happiness? Or different?

Dive Deeper

Monna celebrates Jesus's birthday throughout the story. Read the Christmas story to your little ones and discuss why Jesus's birth was so special.

Luke 1: 26-56

Luke 2: 1-21

Matthew 2:1-12

Activities

Go on your own winter nature walk to search for evidence of Jesus in your neighborhood. What do your children spot? Monna counted up to seven with the creatures she found. How many of the same creatures or items can your children spot?

Make a "birthday cake" to share with local wildlife by piling up cut apples, carrots, and sugar beets (including the greens!). Deer, foxes, wild turkeys, and rabbits will all enjoy the treat! Leave your cake in a wildlife area (not near your house!). Come back several days later to check out the tracks of the animals who ate the cake.

Create bird feeder pinecones to hang in your yard with your children. These will attract birds, squirrels, and other creatures in need to a Christmas feast.

1. Gather several large pinecones.
2. Secure sturdy twine or rope to the stem of the pinecone. You will use this to hang it, so make sure it is well attached. Hot glue works well for this but should only be applied by an adult!
3. Coat the pinecone in peanut butter, nut butter, or sunbutter.
4. Next pour birdseed or sunflower seeds into a shallow dish.
5. Roll each sticky pinecone in the seeds until it is completely coated.
6. Hang your pinecones from branches in your yard. Choose branches in front of a window for a great view of the joyful action as birds, squirrels, chipmunks, and other creatures come to dine.