

# TABLE TALK

WEEK EIGHT

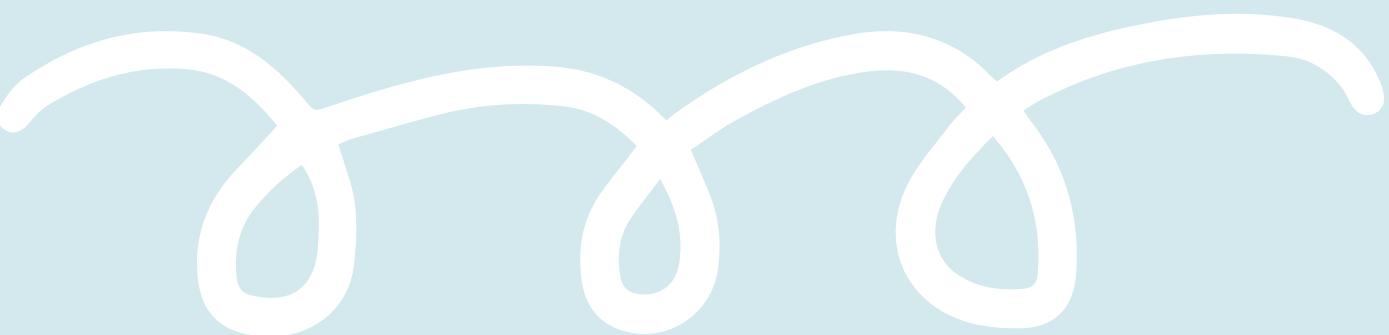
MON: ALL ABOUT GOD

TUES: JESUS TAUGHT US

WED: PEOPLE

THURS: THANKSGIVING

FRI: THE WORLD



# MONDAY : ALL ABOUT GOD

Who is the wisest person you know? What does it mean to be wise?

"But God has wisdom and power. He has good advice and understanding." - Job 12:13

Wisdom is not just about being really smart. Wisdom is about applying our knowledge in the right way. Wisdom is making the right decisions and knowing what to do with the things that you know.

Do you think you are wise? Do you know anyone who ALWAYS makes the right decisions?

We can be wise and make good decisions, but the Bible tells us that God is the only person who is ALWAYS wise. Nothing only does God always do what is wise, everything God does is wise, including the things that sometimes don't make sense to us. For example, Jesus' friends might not have understood what was happening when Jesus died on the cross. But God in his wisdom knew it was the right and only way to save us from our sins.

## PRAY

Praise God because he is wise and everything he does is wise. Thank God that even when things happen that don't make sense to us, we can know that it is from his wisdom. Thank God for sending Jesus in his wisdom. Ask God to help you to know this and always remember this.

# TUESDAY : JESUS TAUGHT US

When Jesus was on earth, he spent lots of his time with people who had sinned. The religious leaders didn't understand this. They thought that Jesus would want to hang out with 'good' people like them! But Jesus explained to them that God is happy whenever anyone decides to follow Jesus – especially people who had done lots of wrong things. He said to them:

*"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins, but she loses one of them. She will light a lamp and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbours and say, 'Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!' In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God when 1 sinner changes his heart."* - Luke 15:8-10.

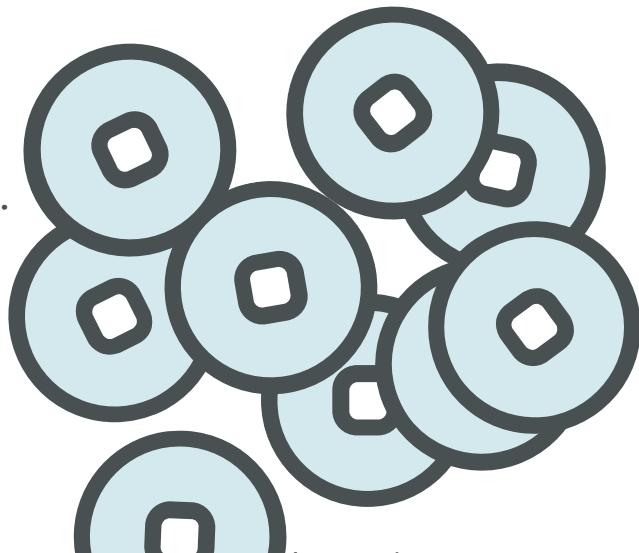
What does the lady have ten of in this story? How many does she lose?

These coins were really important to the lady, so how does she feel when she loses one? What does she do? Even though she had nine other coins, she cared about the one which was missing. How does she feel when she finds the coin?

Jesus says that when one sinner decides to follow Jesus and their heart is changed, all of heaven rejoices. God cares about every person – just like the lady cared about her missing coin – so he is happy when they start following Jesus.

## PRAY

Thank God that he cares about everybody. Thank God for sending Jesus who made it possible for us to follow him and be friends with God. Ask God to help you to care more about those who don't know Jesus yet.



# WEDNESDAY : PEOPLE

On Wednesday's we're learning about different people in the history of the Church. Today we are going to learn about Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand. Richard was the youngest of four brothers and his family were Jewish. Richard lived in Romania and he married Sabina, who was also Jewish when he was 26.



Two years later, the couple met Christian Wolfkes, a Christian carpenter, who taught them about Jesus. Richard and Sabina heard and believed and started following Jesus straight away. Then they started working with people who were trying to teach other Jewish people about Jesus.

In 1944, the Soviet Union invaded and took over Romania. To begin with Richard used this as an opportunity to preach to these soldiers. But the Soviet Union enforced a political system called communism and they tried to control the churches. Richard knew this was wrong, so he started a secret church. But lots of other churches allowed the government to control them and when Richard told them this was wrong – because they should follow Jesus not a human ruler – the government arrested him and his wife.

Sabina spent 3 years in prison and Richard spent 8 years in prison. When Richard was released the two once again set up a secret church. They continued to tell people about Jesus even though it was illegal, and they would get into trouble again. Sure enough, 3 years later Richard was arrested again. This time Richard spent 25 years in prison. He was beaten and tortured because he followed Jesus and wouldn't follow the government instead. The police also tried to upset Sabina and their son Mihai and force them to stop following Jesus. But Richard, Sabina and Mihai knew that they couldn't stop following Jesus. Even if the government targeted and hurt them, they knew that Jesus was the King of Kings.

Eventually, Richard was released from prison and Richard, Sabina and Mihai left Romania to live in the USA. Richard and Sabina decided to spend the rest of their lives helping Christians who were in danger because of their faith.

People were always amazed that Richard and Sabina didn't hate the people who had hurt them, instead they had forgiven them and were even praying for them! When Richard and Sabina died in 2001, Romania honoured them and their commitment to teaching Romania about Jesus.

## LET'S THINK...

What have you learnt from the life of Richard and Sabina? What do you want to remember about them and how they followed Jesus?

# THURSDAY : THANKSGIVING

“Some friends may ruin you. But a real friend will be more loyal than a brother.”  
- Proverbs 18:25

We all have friends. Some friends we might have known for years and some only for a small amount of time. Some of our friends we might see all the time and others not as much. Who are your best friends?

Lots of us are missing our friends because we haven't been able to see them for a long time. You might even be missing your friends at church. Is there anyone you are really missing right now?

All of our friends are gifts from God. The friendship we have with them is a reflection of the love God has for us. Even though we have human friends, nothing can beat the friendship we can have with Jesus! Spend some time thanking God for your friends and telling him if you miss them – God wants to know how we are really feeling. Thank God for the love that he has for us and the friendship we can have with Jesus.



# FRIDAY : THE WORLD

“

*First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to him. - 1 Timothy 2:1*

”

On Fridays we learn about and pray for our brothers and sisters in different countries. In lots of places in the world it is really hard to be a Christian and even dangerous. Today we are learning about Algeria which is the 17th most dangerous place to be a Christian in the world today.

There are 42.7 million people living in Algeria but only 0.3% of those people are Christians. Most of the Christians in Algeria used to be Muslim or come from Muslim families. These Christians face a lot of pressure to go back to Islam but when they continue to follow Jesus it can upset people. People in Algeria make life as hard as possible for Christians. Church leaders report that female Christians from Muslim backgrounds are sometimes placed under house-arrest by their families when their faith is discovered. They are not allowed to meet other Christians or to have any contact with them. They are not allowed to watch TV or listen to the radio as Christian channels are broadcast into Algeria. The Government only adds to this by restricting people's freedom to practice religion, unless the religion they practice is Islam.

In the countryside this kind of behaviour is worse. Christians can be kicked out of their communities and be met with violence because of their faith.

But God is still working in Algeria. The church in Algeria is growing. Most Christians in Algeria come to faith through dreams, visions and Christian broadcasts. Churches send their sermons out of the country to be broadcast back into Algeria over satellite TV.

Lord Jesus, thank You that the church in Algeria is growing. Give Your people there more opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with their communities. Continue to reveal Yourself in dreams and visions and connect those who are new to the faith with the right people who will encourage them and help them to grow as disciples. Amen.