



11 TIPS
FOR
TALKING
TO YOUR
KIDS
ABOUT
FAITH

11 TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT FAITH

Children are a gift we have been entrusted with by God.

Psalms says it this way, “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.”(127:3-5)

God has chosen you to nurture, love, teach, and guide the children in your care toward Him. Jesus loves our children, Matthew 19:14 “Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” The most loving thing we as parents can do is exactly what Jesus said, let the children come to Him, and do not hinder them, or in other words, help them.

One of our main jobs as parents is to help our kids find and follow Jesus (Proverbs 22:6). But, let’s be honest, talking about faith can be hard! Oftentimes, we don’t know where to start, what to say, and how to even bring it up. So, what do you do? How do you talk to your kids about faith?

Here are 11 tips to help you talk about faith with your kids and head down the road of helping them find and follow Jesus.

1. Study, learn & care

Many times our desire for our kids to pursue faith is stronger than our own. Allow the journey to start with you. You study God's Word. You learn about Him. You care to advance your own spiritual maturity.

Studying and learning will undoubtedly help you broach conversations with your kids, but it goes beyond that. Pursuing your own spiritual growth will help model what you desire for your kids, will put you in the right mind and heart posture before God, and will help you be the best parent you can be.

2. Pray for conversations before they happen

God opens hearts, not us. Even though we are the ones having conversations with your kids, it is God who prepares them, and you for those conversations. Ask Him to open doors, provide clarity, give you wisdom, and allow conversations about faith to happen. Pray in advance for the conversations you will have.

3. Know that you don't need all the answers to start the conversation

One of the biggest limiting factors for having conversations about faith with anyone, including our kids, is a misconception that we must have all the right answers. The fear of being asked a question that we don't know the answer to can be paralyzing. The truth is you won't have all the answers. But that's okay. Don't allow that fear to keep you from having the conversation.

It's okay (and actually better) to say "I don't know." But, then seek the answer together. Show your kids the process to find the right answer, ask others, study, and learn together.

4. Questions are good and doubts are okay

Know that when you talk to your kids about faith they won't understand it all and will have questions.

Encourage questions. Encourage being inquisitive and allow them to have doubts. Doubts are okay. Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, and the list goes on and on of people in the Bible who had doubts. Thomas gets a bad rep for being a doubter, but all of the disciples ran away in doubt. Doubts are okay, and hopefully the more you talk about faith the more helpful it will be to solve those doubts.

5. Let your kids know you're open for questions

I routinely ask my kids if they have any questions about God, The Bible, church, faith or religion, and they routinely reply that they can't think of anything at the moment. I know they probably won't be able to come up with something right then and there, but what I'm doing is letting them know that when those questions do come up they can talk to me. I am open and available to answer the questions that will come up, and they know it. Let your kids know they can ask you questions about faith.

6. Ask them questions

Continuing with the theme of questions, asking your kids questions can be one of the best tools you have.

Many times kids need some prompting to think about things they might not normally think about, like faith. Ask them questions like, “do you ever think about God?”, “What are some ways you saw evidence of God today?”, “What does it mean to show Jesus to people?” etc.

7. Pick the right times

Bringing up the topic of faith and asking deep questions at the wrong time will only produce blank stares and no attention given to the seriousness of the conversation. Pick the right time when they have time to devote to thinking about and having a conversation about the topic at hand. It can be quite frustrating for everyone involved if you're trying to help them understand God and they're only concerned about the fun they were having before you asked.

8. Leave the conversation open, don't push it

The conversation about faith with your kid will be an ongoing conversation. It is not meant to be a one and done conversation, it is meant to be continuous and ongoing. Meaning, If your kid is not interested in having the conversation don't push it in that moment, but leave it open and circle back to it at a better time.

9. Read a Bible story together

Open the door for a faith conversation by reading a Bible story together and allowing the conversation to flow from there. Oftentimes we don't know where to start, and a Bible story can be a great start. Read something from the Children's story book Bible or one of the other resources we will talk about.

10. Use songs and lyrics

Worship songs are easy to listen to, but oftentimes we don't truly hear the lyrics. I'm sure your kid might even be able to sing the lyrics after hearing it a few times, but have they (or you) even stopped to ponder what they mean? Pause the song and ask your kids what the lyrics mean and allow them to be a bridge to meaningful conversation.

11. Use the parent cue resources

There are many wonderful resources available to help you start a conversation with your kid about faith. In the parent cue app you will find links to videos, recaps of lessons, discussion questions, and more to help you engage your child about faith. Watch a lesson or video together, talk about it, and utilize what is available to help bring faith into the everyday routines of your house and interactions with your kids.