



Family Conversation Resource

Prayer

THE WIN

Caregivers and kids engaging in a conversation about prayer.

PREPARE FOR THE CONVERSATION(S)

Praying is a conversation between you and God. We often talk about praying like you talk to a friend. There are times that you listen as your friend talks and other times your friend talks and you listen. Praying takes commitment and specific intentionality on our part. God wants to listen to us and in turn God wants us to be listeners. As you prepare to have conversations, spend time thinking through the following prompts or questions:

- What does your prayer time look like or sound like?
- When do you find yourself praying?
- What is your story when it comes to praying? Did you grow up in a household where praying was normal or non-existent?
- What is your posture when praying?
- How do you remain focused while praying?
- Write a prayer to God.

DISCUSSION

Families, when kids are questioning and wondering about prayer, one of the best things we can do is to continue the conversation. **YOU** are the best resource for your kids! Below are some discussion questions to use as you continue or start the conversation. Remember, you are the best person to invest spiritually into your child. Keep the conversation going, and know we are here for you!

- What do you know about prayer?
- Why do you pray?
- Have you heard others' prayers?
- When you pray, what do you pray about?
- Is it ever difficult for you to pray?
- Do you pray in a specific spot? (ex: room, bus, dinner table)

INVESTIGATE TOGETHER

Spend time reading the Bible passages below. Talk about what you notice, what you learn, what is confusing, or any questions that arise during the readings.

- Psalm 17:16
- Matthew 6:9-13: The Lord's Prayer
- 1 John 5:15
- John 17:1-26: Jesus Prays

ENGAGE TOGETHER

The point of this section is to have families engaging in some sort of hands-on activity around the topic.

- Model what praying looks and sounds like for your child. This may include starting to pray at dinner or at night. You could even model praying for your day first thing in the morning.
- Provide your child with a prayer journal. This journal could be a spiral notebook or a collection of copy paper stapled together. Invite your child to decorate the journal. After decorating the journal, encourage your child to write or draw their prayers.
- Use the TACOS(S) method as a way to help your child pray.
 - **T** - Thanksgiving: Encourage your child to think of something he or she is thankful about
 - **A** - Applause (Adoration): Encourage your child to think of something he or she can praise God for over the course of the week or day
 - **C** - Confession: Encourage your child to think of something he or she needs to confess or repent to God. This is an opportunity for Kids to ask for forgiveness.
 - **O** - Others: Encourage your child to pray for other people in their life. They can pray for teachers, siblings, parents, friends, and others
 - **S** - Self (Supplication): Encourage your child to think of something he or she needs specific pray about for them. This could be prayers for specific feelings or situations occurring in their life.
 - **S** - Silence: Encourage your child to be silent. This can be difficult, however, part of praying is listening to what God might be saying to us.
- Another way to pray is to color while praying. Provide your child with a few pieces of paper and crayons. Invite your child to draw a picture while praying. This picture can be an abstract drawing of the prayer request or a specific drawing of the prayer request.

PRAY

This conversation is all about prayer. As you close your conversation, invite your child to pray with you. Invite your child, if comfortable, to pray.

NEXT STEPS

- Determine another time to talk with your child about prayer.
 - Find ways to encourage your child to pray.
 - Find ways to encourage your child to pray.
- If necessary, set up a time to talk with a Kid's Pastor.

