



GLOSSARY

ASK: Ask a question that will help them to think about how this information makes a difference in the life.

SHARE: Talk about your own experience as a disciple of Jesus.

EXPLAIN: This is a piece of information that will help to explain the topic.

Why Should I Talk To God

'Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.'
Ephesians 6:18

Chat

EXPLAIN: Prayer is a way that we share with God about how we are thinking and feeling and about what is happening in our lives. When we are praying we might say the words, write them down, think them or do something else that helps us to connect with God.

Prayer is also about God sharing with us about his thoughts and feelings, helping us to know what to do and reminding us that he is close to us.

Remember that talking to or hearing from God is the same as talking to or hearing from Jesus.

SHARE: Some of the things I talk to God about when I pray are... Share about a time when you felt that God responded to your prayer.

ASK: How does it make you feel to know that God listens when we pray and that he also wants to share things with us?

- ASK:** Can you think of a time when God has spoken to you or you have felt really close to God?
- EXPLAIN:** The Bible teaches us about how important it is to talk to God. There are lots of verses that remind us that we can talk to God about anything and everything. Nothing is too big or too small; too special or too ordinary; too private or too scary. God likes to be a part of our life..
- ASK:** What sort of things can you talk to God about?
- ASK:** How many times a day do you think you can talk to God?
- EXPLAIN:** the more time we spend talking to our friends the better we know them. It is the same with God. The difference is that God already knows us completely. But He also loves us and listens to us no matter what we talk to Him about.
Sometimes things upset us and we don't want to share them with others. It is at these times that God especially loves us to talk to him. When we share our thoughts with Him it helps us not to worry about the problem. If it's a big problem then we might still need to talk to an adult that we trust.
- SHARE:** Share about a time when you have talked to God about something that you couldn't share with anyone else.
- NOTE:** You don't need to give specific details. For example: Once I was really scared about something I did. I thought I might get into trouble if I told anyone so I talked to God about it. He helped me to be brave enough to own up to my mistake and ask for forgiveness.
- EXPLAIN:** Friends want to know about each other. Jesus already knows all about you and he thinks you are amazing! You can learn about Jesus by reading the stories in the Bible, going to church or talking to other friends of Jesus.
- ASK:** What is something that is worrying you now that you would like to share with God? What is something exciting/good that you would like to take to God about?

Activity

Make a simple cup/string phone. You can have a few fun conversations talking to each other. After this, use a marker to write "God" on one of the cups and the child's name on the other cup. Explain that we don't need electricity or WIFI or even a real phone to talk to God. He can hear us wherever we are. Look here for instructions <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/stringphone.html>

Application

When you feel alone or worried remember that God is always ready to listen. You can talk to Him. God is also ready to share with you about his thoughts and feelings.

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for always being with me and always ready to listen when I talk to you. I know that I can tell you the good stuff and the stuff that worries me. Help me to listen for your voice too. Amen



Tips for Using Little Chats

As children answer the questions they are voicing their thoughts to God. Remind them that Jesus hears our prayers. You don't need to ask all of the questions each time you use Little Chats but referring to a range each time will help children to learn about the breadth of prayer.

Use the suggested prayer or pray in your own words to model more formal prayer without minimising the importance of the informal prayer.

Remember to be aware of the teachable moments in everyday life, not just when using Little Chats, to have important conversations with children.

This resource provides a guideline for conversations. If children want to discuss things further keep the conversation going for as long as they are still interested.

Don't be afraid to tell a child that you don't know the answers to their questions. In these instance, offer to work together to learn the answer.

Prayer

Draw some pictures or write words to answer these questions:

What would you like to talk to Jesus about?

What are you happy about?

Is there anything that is making you feel sad?

What can you thank Jesus for?

Is there anything you are sorry about?

Is there something you would like Jesus to help you with?

Who would you like to pray for?

Dear God, Thank you for always being with me and always ready to listen when I talk to you. I know that I can tell you the good stuff and the stuff that worries me. Help me to listen for your voice too. Amen

Little Chats - Why Should I Talk To God

Activity

Trace your hand on this page and write or draw something along each finger that you have learned about talking to God.