



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.

How Can I Talk To God?

'Don't worry about anything but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.'
Philippians 4:6

Chat

EXPLAIN: Remember that prayer is a way that we share with God about how we are thinking and feeling and about what is happening in our lives. Prayer is also about God sharing with us about his thoughts and feelings. We can talk to God about a lot of things, just like talking to our friends. We can tell him how much we love him. We can say sorry. We can talk to him about people we care about and ask him to help them.

ASK: Are there ways we can 'talk' without using words? Do we have to pray out loud?

EXPLAIN: We can pray aloud or silently (in our heads/minds). We can pray on our own or with others. We can pray long or short prayers. We don't have to use special words when we pray. There is no right or wrong way to pray.

ASK: Do you think we could sing a prayer? Could we shout or whisper a prayer? Can we write or draw our prayers?

- SHARE:** Some of the different ways I have prayed are... maybe it was in a prayer room - writing a prayer, drawing a prayer, or some other action (eg. lighting a candle).
- EXPLAIN:** We can pray to God anytime and anywhere. We can pray to God whenever we think about it.
- ASK:** Can we pray at church? Can we pray at school/kindy? Can we pray at the park? What about up a tree?
- ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL):** Depending on where you are you might like to move around and ask "Can I talk to God here?" (eg. If you are in a home - you may move to the kitchen, bathroom, back yard, etc.)
- EXPLAIN:** God is always there, willing and wanting to listen to what we have to say.
- ASK:** What do you talk to God about?
- EXPLAIN:** Sometimes it is easy to know what to pray for. Other times it's not as easy and we might need something to help us with our prayers. One simple method for prayer is using a teaspoon, with the abbreviation used in recipes 'TSP'.
 T=Thanks - What is one thing you can thank God for?
 S=Sorry - What is one thing you are sorry for?
 P=Please - What is one thing you can ask God for? (it might be for yourself or someone else.)
- SHARE:** Some things that I would like to pray for right now are...
- EXPLAIN:** When we talk to our friends, we need to listen as well as have our turn to speak. It's the same when we talk to God. God wants us to listen to him as well.
- ASK:** What are some ways we can 'hear' from God?
- EXPLAIN:** Some people hear God's voice like we hear each other's voice. God can talk to us as we read the Bible, or listen to someone else read the Bible. He can talk to us in nature. He can talk to us through other people, especially other Christians. God can also talk to us through our conscience. (If you have done something wrong, how do you know? We can feel it in our hearts. God can speak to us like that too.)

Prayer is us talking to God and God talking to us.

Activity

Talk to God in a way that you have not tried before. Try drawing or painting a picture. Maybe write down words as you pray silently. Maybe find a song that you can sing or listen to.

OR Football Prayers - if you have the space, kick (or throw) a football to each other, praying for something each time you kick it.

Journal - Trace around a teaspoon and write the letter TSP.

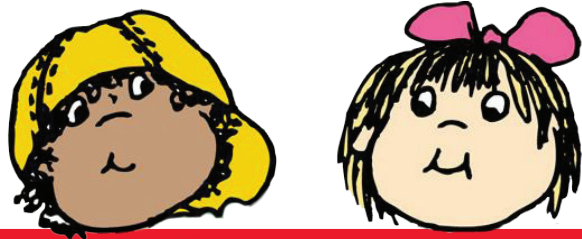
Write or draw pictures of the things that you said THANKS, SORRY and PLEASE for.

Application

We can talk to God any way, any time and any where. God doesn't expect that we will all pray in the same way but He does want us to talk to him and listen to him.

Resource

Joyce Meyer's book **"Every Which Way to Pray"** revolves around a whimsical cast of animal characters who help two animal children discover the many "fun, simple and engaging" ways to pray each day. The goal is to explain to readers that "prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day."



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.

Little Chats - How Can I Talk To God

Prayer

Talk to God in a way that you have not tried before. Try drawing or painting a picture. Maybe write down words as you pray silently. Maybe find a song that you can sing or listen to.

Jesus, you are amazing! You are with me all of the time. Thanks that I can talk to you no matter where I am and no matter what I am doing. Amen

Journal

Trace around a teaspoon and write the letter TSP.

Write or draw pictures of the things that you said THANKS, SORRY and PLEASE for.

Activity