



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 do bad things happen?

'Let Him have all your worries and cares, for He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.'
1 Peter 5:7 (TLB)

Activity

Thumbs up / Thumbs down

Read the following list of things a child might do. Ask the child to give a 'thumbs up' for good or a 'thumbs down' for bad as you read each one.

- *Have a play date with a friend
- *Lose a game
- * Eat vegetables
- * Have a birthday
- * Someone you know gets sick
- * Play a game with a friend
- * Have an ice cream

Chat

EXPLAIN: Good things and bad things happen to everyone. We are happy when good things happen to us and others. Understanding why bad things happen is hard even for grownups. We might ask why God lets these bad things happen. When things go wrong in the world or in our lives we wonder why.

EXPLAIN: God has given everyone a choice about what they do. Sometimes we make bad choices and this is why bad things happen. Sometimes other people make bad choices that can hurt us or make us unhappy.

SHARE: I remember a time when I made a bad choice ... (share about a time when your own bad choice had a consequence that wasn't great)

ASK: Can you think of a time when you have made a bad choice about something? What happened? Did it hurt someone else?

EXPLAIN: God loves us and wants us to be happy. We are told to give thanks to God for everything he gives us. But loving God doesn't mean that bad things won't happen to us. Sometimes bad things happen in our world like floods or big storms and we can't understand why. When bad things happen God is still right there with us loving us and caring for us.

SHARE: Share about a time when you had a tough time that was totally out of your control and how you felt. (For example, the death of a loved one, loss of a job or natural disaster. Be mindful not to go into too many details that might be distressing for the child)

ASK: How do you feel when good things happen? What are you feeling when bad things happen to you or to people you know?

ASK: Who are some people that help you when you are having a bad time?

EXPLAIN: Bad things do happen to everyone and it can be really hard for us to understand why. God is a loving God who has a plan for each one of us. We cannot always explain why bad things happen but we can be sure that during these bad times God is still with us. We can pray and ask God to help us to get through bad times or to help us make better choices. We also have people we can talk to if we are worried about anything.

Activity

Make a list of people who could help you or you could talk to when bad things happen.

Journal

Trace around your hand and write or draw about something bad that has happened to you. Write or have someone help you write - 'God cares about you' underneath. This is a reminder to hand all of our worries over to God.

Application

Remember that God is watching out for you all the time. Everyone has bad things happen to them. This doesn't mean that God doesn't love us. We can talk to God about what is worrying us. He hears our prayers.

Prayer

Thank you God that you love me even when I make bad choices or I go through tough times. Please help me to remember to talk to you about what worries me. Amen

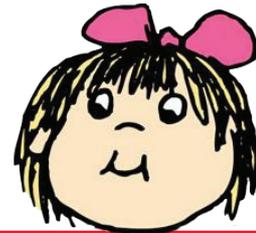
Key point

EXPLAIN: God loves us and wants us to be happy. We are told to give thanks to God for everything he gives us. But loving God doesn't mean that bad things won't happen to us. Sometimes bad things happen in our world like floods or big storms and we can't understand why. When bad things happen God is still right there with us loving us and caring for us.

SHARE: Share about a time when you had a tough time that was totally out of your control and how you felt. (For example, the death of a loved one, loss of a job or natural disaster. Be mindful not to go into too many details that might be distressing for the child))

ASK: How do you feel when good things happen? What are you feeling when bad things happen to you or to people you know?

ASK: Who are some people that help you when you are having a bad time?



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 - Why Should I Talk To God

Journal

Trace around your hand and write or draw about something bad that has happened to you. Write or have someone help you write - 'God cares about you' underneath. This is a reminder to hand all of our worries over to God.

Prayer

Make a list of people who could help you or you could talk to when bad things happen. Write those names in the praying hands below.



Thank you God that you love me even when I make bad choices or I go through tough times. Please help me to remember to talk to you about what worries me. Amen