



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 are families important?

'A friend is always a friend, and relatives are born to share our troubles.'
Proverbs 17:17 (CEV)

Chat

EXPLAIN: Everyone needs people to care for them. God has given us families to support us, help us to make good choices, have fun with us and help us in times of trouble. Sometimes families laugh together. Sometimes families play together. Sometimes families work together. Sometimes things can be a bit tricky and you might be worried about things. At times like this your family can help you to understand things better. Not all families look the same or do the same things..

SHARE: Share about who is in your family.

ASK: Who is in your family?

ASK: What sort of things do your family do together?

ACTIVITY: Fold a piece of paper in half and ask the child to draw their family on one side. Then think of another family that you know well and draw their family on the other side of the page.

Talk about the things that are the same (They live in a house, same amount of people, go to the same school/ church) Talk about the things that are different (amount of people, names)

EXPLAIN: God loves everyone in your family. Some people have big families some people have small families and some people don't have any family at all. When we love Jesus we become part of God's family. Sometimes you might hear people say that you are part of their church family ... all churches everywhere are the part of the family of God.

ASK: What does your church family look like? What do they do together?

Share: The best thing someone in my family has taught me is... Share something from your own personal experience. For example, cook, drive, surf etc.

Ask: What is something that you can do because someone in your family taught you how? Show me (if appropriate).

Ask: Did you enjoy learning it?

Ask: What have you taught someone in your family?

Explain: Families can help you learn a lot of things about life. You can also teach other people in your family things. Some of them are easy, like how to play a game and some are hard, like learning how to ride a bike. Families are also there to help you learn about God and the bible. God wants you to have people who love and care for you. These people are called your family. But it's not always easy to be a part of a family.

Share: A time when being part of a family was hard for me was...

Ask: I wonder if being part of a family has ever been hard for you.

Explain: Families are important even when things get hard or when we are cross with each other. In our families we can learn how to get along with other people, how to share, how to say sorry and how to forgive.

Activity

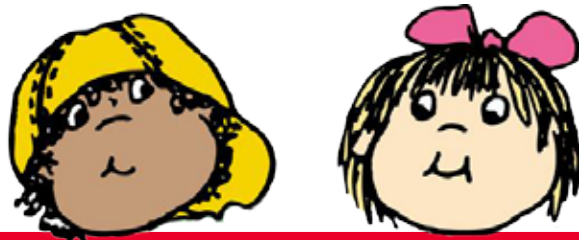
Make a simple cup/string phone. You can have a few fun conversations talking to each other. After this, use a marker to write "God" on one of the cups and the child's name on the other cup. Explain that we don't need electricity or WIFI or even a real phone to talk to God. He can hear us wherever we 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.

Little Chats - Why Are Families Important?

Journal

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

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?

Jesus, we are excited about being your friends. We are going to keep trying to be the best friends we can be to you and others. Amen.