Faith
Conversation Guide
for Parents of Prechoolers

Faith. How we talk about faith at each phase of a person's life matters in how they'll think about faith in the phases to come. Preschoolers use their five senses to experience the world around them. In this phase, you can help them develop authentic faith by inciting wonder. You will give them the foundations for their faith in the way you respond with concrete examples and by letting them explore God's creation. As they grow and mature into adolescents you'll be able to unpack abstract concepts more deeply. For now, be as simple as possible, and remember that your role in the preschool phase is to . . .

Incite Wonder → So they will KNOW GOD'S LOVE AND MEET GOD'S FAMILY.

This guide is designed to help you connect with your child in the phase they are in, by giving you some words to say to introduce them to faith. As the conversation progresses through the phases, always keep this end goal in mind for your kid:

Trusting Jesus in a way that transforms how I love God, myself, and the rest of the world.

In the **new baby** phase, say things like . . .

"God, thank You for this healthy baby." (Pray aloud while you are with your baby.)
"Jesus loves me." (Sing songs while you hold your baby.)
"We are going to church." (Connect with a faith community.)

In the following **preschool** years, say things like . . .

"God made you. God loves you. Jesus wants to be your friend forever."
"God, thank you for . . ."
"God, please help us . . ."
"Let's read about how God made the world."
"Are you scared? Let's talk to God about it."
"How did the Samaritan take care of his neighbor?" (Talk about what your preschooler learns at church.)
"Can you let your friend have a turn?" (Prompt them to share.)
"Isn't that wonderful? Let's thank God for it."
"Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you." Joshua 1:9 (Repeat simple Bible verses.)

It's Just A Phase . . . So Don't Miss It!

Just Remember . . . Every phase is a timeframe in a kid's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future. The preschool years are the wonder years. You can incite their wonder by exploring the world side-by-side with your child. Your child listens to your words, so this phase is the perfect time to begin talking, singing, and reading out loud with your toddler about faith. And as they get older—three, four, five—and have questions about so many things, including faith questions, answer as simply as possible.

To enhance the conversation, here are a few activities your family can try:

Print photos of family members and friends and place them in an inexpensive album. Let your preschooler flip through the book while you lead them in praying for the people they see in the pictures.

Create a playlist of your child's favorite praise and worship songs. Demonstrate connecting with God through song by dancing and singing with your preschooler on a regular basis. Don't know where to find great, kid-friendly music? Check out ParentCueStore.org or Orange Kids Music in iTunes.

Pray consistently with your preschooler. Demonstrate that prayer is having a conversation with God by using a pretend telephone during your prayer time. Take turns "dialing" (starting the prayer) and "hanging up" (ending the prayer). Let your preschooler use their own words and language, but feel free to prompt them if they get distracted or stall out.

Tell your child simple Bible stories and repeat favorite memory verses. (Use the Parent Cue App for help!) Explain simply that stories from the Bible are true, and show us how to live.

This guide is based on research from The Phase Project, a collaborative, ongoing effort, assembling classic and innovative research with practical application.

To discover more ways to understand your child's phase, check out the Parenting Your . . . book series at parentcuestore.org.

PARENT CUE

For more information on The Phase Project and other great parent resources, visit theParentCue.org

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