

PRESCHOOL FAITH



CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR SGLs

. . . for intentional conversations with kids

Faith may look like a small word on the outside, but it means a big thing—trusting and having confidence in God even though we can't see Him. And even preschoolers can achieve an understanding of faith and learn to walk in it. After all, preschoolers are experts at using their imaginations, and they aren't nearly as impeded by what they can't see as grown ups. They see castles in the clouds and believe you when you say the moon is made of cheese. In this phase, you can help them develop an authentic faith by inciting wonder. You are giving 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, they'll be able to understand abstract concepts more deeply. But for now, be as simple as possible. Here's a few words to say and a few not to say.

Remember, your goal with your preschoolers are to...

INCITE THEIR WONDER
so they will know God's love and meet God's family.



WHAT TO SAY:

- "Jesus wants to be your friend forever."
- "God made you."
- "God loves you so much."
- "We can't see God, but we can know he's always with us."
- "I'm sorry you feel that way. Let's talk to God about that."
Or "I'm glad you feel that way. Let's thank God for that."
- "There's a true story in the Bible about that. Let's read it together."
(Use an age-appropriate storybook Bible to read stories that relate to what your preschooler is experiencing.)
- "How can we share with our friends?" *(Sharing is the foundation for service. We start thinking about others when we share what we have to help them or make them feel included.)*
- Repeat simple Bible verses: "Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you."
- "The Bible is a book that tells us about God."
- Sing simple songs about faith like, "Jesus Loves Me."

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY:

- "Don't be silly, Moses wasn't Isaac's father." *(Or whatever the biblical fact they mess up. You can correct them, but don't make them feel bad about it.)*
- "Don't ask questions about..." *(Because preschoolers have an active imagination, they will ask some off-the-wall questions about what they hear. Give them grace with these questions and help them realize that God is big enough to handle all of our questions no matter how crazy they may seem.)*
- "Details. Details. More Details." *(Don't over explain Biblical concepts or include too many details about a story. Use highlights to share the concept or story in a way your preschooler can understand.)*
- "Verses. Verses. More Verses." *(We want preschoolers to know stories from the Bible. But even the simplest Bible translation is too much for young kids. Use a storybook Bible written with preschoolers in mind to introduce them to Scripture.)*