

TALK
TIME

children

INSTRUCTIONS

Designed to provide opportunities for parents and other adults to have meaningful conversations with children about God's presence and faithfulness in their lives. By sharing memories, activities and value-forming experiences, adults and children are nurtured and grow in faith. Children learn from the stories of adults, and adults learn from the stories of children. Sharing stories is an important dimension of faith development.

DESIGN

There are 24 share cards in each of four categories.

1

REFLECTIONS Children and adults are asked to recall and share significant experiences from the past. Children learn from the stories of parents, grandparents and other adults they love. The memories may be about happenings in the home, traveling with the family, church, or recalling family traditions, customs or rituals.

2

EMOTIONS Faith is caught more than it is taught. Children learn about faith by watching the actions and feelings of parents and other adults. These cards enable families to show and discuss how being a child of God is lived out in a family and in the community. Facial expressions, body language, acting out Bible story characters, drawing pictures, and thinking about how to care for others are some of the ways children and adults will explore emotions.

3

WONDERING Children's minds are full of wonder with questions about and responses to the presence of God and faith in Christ. Children are very playful as they wonder; so must adults be as they grow with the children God places in their hands. The wondering questions are very much like looking up at fluffy clouds and asking, "What do you see?"

4

GROWING TOGETHER Children and adults are asked to share stories which reflect who they are as children of God and how they live and grow in faith together. These cards will connect with how a family is concerned with safety, does acts of kindness, forgives, plays, and affirms each other. The cards may involve drawing a picture, and then discussing it.

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Cut out cards and laminate individually.
- 2 Explain the four different categories. Use mixed together or separated.
- 3 Play on the floor, around the table, in the car, or on an airplane.
- 4 LISTEN! And look at the person while they are responding.
- 5 After responding to the card, all may want to give their own answer.
- 6 After the person has taken a turn, the card should be placed on the bottom of the appropriate stack of cards and the next person selects a card.



HOW TO USE TALK TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children need to hear the stories of faith from their uncles, aunts, mothers, fathers, grandparents, godparents, sisters, brothers, and neighbours. We know from research that every child needs a significant relationship with at least five adults other than a parent. We also know that a parent is the most influential person in the faith formation of a child.

However, adults need to hear the stories of faith that live in the hearts of the children that God places in their hands. Talk Time with Children has been designed to begin discussions on issues of faith and life between children and their parents or other adults. This resource is designed to be used at bedtime, car time, meal time, holiday time or anytime the family gathers.

USE TALK TIME WITH CHILDREN AT:

- Family devotion time
- Family celebrations and birthdays
- Family reunions and holiday get-togethers
- When grandparents come to visit
- Intergenerational events

For more information or for a brochure of resources for nurturing the faith in the home contact the Grow Ministries team

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