

Teaching Your Kids to Pray

There is no “right way” to pray. I remember the first time I was asked to “pray out loud”. My first thought was not “What do I want to talk with God about today?” but rather, “Oh no, what if I don’t do it right!” Kids, and parents, would find prayer - talking to God - much easier if we realized that there is no “right way” to talk to God. God isn’t grading us; He just wants to hear from us. Teaching your kids to talk with God just like they would with you or a close friend can help to set them at ease. Let them know that God is interested in their lives...what happened at recess, the big game, or how they did on their math test. Reassure them that God can handle their questions, frustrations, and even their “grumpiness”!



You can talk to God about ANYTHING. Making prayer relevant to children’s lives can help them develop a lifelong habit of prayer. When children are young they tend to think the world revolves around them. This is a normal stage of development and can help kids develop a prayer routine by focusing on their everyday concerns. “Please heal Tommy’s sore throat, watch over Megan’s new puppy, and help me to listen better to my teacher.” When the prayers mean something to them, the more likely they are to engage daily.

God is BIG. As the famous “theologians” Larry the cucumber and Bob the tomato say... *God is bigger than the boogie man!* It’s true; nothing is too big or too hard for God to handle. Help your kids understand that God can help us face the biggest problems, the littlest boo-boos as well as the scariest boogie man! As my kids liked to sing...My God is so BIG, so STRONG and so MIGHTY, there’s nothing my God can not do - FOR YOU!

God listens to all prayers. God is always there and He is never too busy to listen to us. We all “know it” but sometimes a little proof is helpful. A great way to help children realize that God is really listening is to point out answered prayers. “Hey buddy, I see Tommy was back at school today. God healed his sore throat. Let’s thank God for answering your prayer.”

“Yes” isn’t the only answer. It is also important to help your children understand that God answer prayers in several ways. Sometimes the answer is “yes”, sometimes the answer is “not yet”, and sometimes the answer is “no”. “No” may not be the answer they were hoping for, so help them to understand that God knows best and that He still answered their prayer.

Parents pray too. Teaching kids to pray at an early age can help develop a wonderful lifelong habit. As parents, what we do speaks louder than what we say, so be sure to let your kids “catch you” talking to God!

“Hand-y” guide:

