



Build 4 Faith Skills in each Phase



Talk

Here's two things that are true: 1) We all want to talk about what we like, and 2) we want to hang out with people who talk about what we like.

Peter and John both liked to talk about Jesus. They were in Jesus' group of friends and knew him well. They saw what Jesus did and heard what Jesus said, and it made them want to talk about Jesus all the time.

That didn't always make them popular. In Acts, we can read about when Peter and John got into trouble for talking about Jesus. The religious leaders didn't like what they said, so they threw them in jail overnight. The next day, they told Peter and John they could go free as long as they promised to stop talking about Jesus.

They didn't agree, of course! Instead, they said, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

You've probably felt that way before. Like you can't stop talking about something even if you tried because you are so excited about it. That's how Peter and John felt – they couldn't stop sharing the exciting news that they knew about Jesus.

We each know something about Jesus, too! We know what he has done in our lives and how he has used others to help us learn more about him and his love for us. That's something about Jesus that no one else knows - unless you talk about it.

Daily Practices to Develop This Skill

So, what should we teach our kids about talking about Jesus?

- 1) **Talk with people who believe in Jesus:** Take time to talk to people who believe in Jesus which will help them know God better. Talking with other people who believe in Jesus also helps them learn to talk about their faith with other people who don't believe in Jesus.
- 2) **Talk with anyone who asks:** We teach our kids that God made them, God loves them, and they should treat other people the same way. When they know God, it shows. Teach them to be ready to answer questions about their faith when people ask them why they are so kind and loving.

Talk

- 3) **Talk about what God says:** We should build each other up every day by talking about what God says. Whether it's cheering on someone doing the right thing or encouraging a friend who is down, talking about what God says might be precisely what they need. The goal is to encourage each other with Jesus' Words.

Building the Skill into the Rhythm of Your Day

Help your kids learn to talk about God using the times you already have:

- **Morning time:** Help them choose a person to encourage with Jesus' words. They could write an encouraging verse on a card and give it to them. Some verses you could use are Matthew 5:44, Matthew 25:40, Matthew 22:39, and Matthew 22:37
- **Mealtime:** Model for them during mealtime how to talk about the amazing things God has done in your life. Praise Him for all the wonderful things He has done and ask your kids to share what God is doing in their lives.
- **Bedtime:** Work with your kids to make a list of all the people they think are an excellent example of what it looks like to have a strong relationship with God. Then make a list of traits they admire in them. This helps them develop a list of people they can talk to about Jesus.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another” Hebrew 10:25



Ideas and concepts were developed based on the book “Know God: A 28-Day Devotional Experience for Kids” published by our curriculum partners at Orange. If you have middle or high school students, check out “Know God: A 28-Day Devotional Experience for Students”.