

I BELONG: Count Your Blessings

Step 1: As each person's popsicle stick is chosen, have each person list 5 blessings. Record people's responses here...

Name: _____

Step 2: Discuss as a family a few of the following questions:

Why do you think God blesses us with good things?

How else does God show us His love?

How does God TELL you he loves you?

Step 3: Share stories of times when you felt God's love...

Step 4: Look at the sheet of "I Love You" in different languages...

Pass the paper around and have everyone pick one to try and say, or as a family pick a few to say to each other...

I KNOW AND UNDERSTAND: Dig In To A Bible Story

Step 1: Grab a Bible and read the story of David & Goliath. (I Samuel 17)

(Or if you're really familiar with the story, tell it to each other as a family... someone start and then "hand off" to someone else and have them pick up where you left off...

Step 2: Ask these "Dig In" questions and go around the table for answers and discussion...

1. What's your favorite part of the story?
2. What's the most exciting part of the story?
3. What would you have done if you had been in this story as _____?
(Fill in the blank with the name of one of the characters in the story.)
4. Where do you see God working in this story?
5. What can we learn from this story?

I HAVE HOPE: Confidence in God's Promises

Step 1: Choose a popsicle stick and as names are chosen, take turns sharing a story of when you were scared or felt alone.

Step 2: Take turns reading some of God's promises from the Bible... (Feel free to add your own to the list. Or ask the kids if they can think of any others.)

1. Isaiah 41:10
2. Isaiah 41:13
3. Deuteronomy 31:8
4. John 3:16
5. Joshua 1:9

Step 3: Think of someone you know that is going through a tough time... take the blank note card and write one of God's promises on it. Feel free to write a little personal note as well. Have everyone sign their name, put it in the envelope and write the person's name on the front. As a family, pray for this person that they will be blessed and encouraged by the hope of God's promise written inside.

I AM CALLED AND EQUIPPED: When I Grow Up...

Step 1: Popsicle stick your way through your family... when your name is chosen, tell what you wanna be when you grow up (or remember back to when you were a kid and tell what you wanted to be when you grew up...) and why.

Step 2: Parents/adults in the group, answer these questions:

1. How did you choose or “end up” in the career/vocation you are currently in?
 - a. Share your story... how did God lead you to where you are today?
2. What about yourself uniquely qualifies you for your current job/responsibilities?

Step 3: As a family...

1. Brainstorm 10 different career choices and write them on separate pieces of paper.
2. Fold them in half and put them in a pile in the middle of the table so you can't see what's on them. Mix them up...
3. Go around the table and have each person pick one paper from the pile and share the career you chose.
4. As each person reads their career, take a few minutes and think about this person and that career and give ideas as to why that person could be successful at that career... Think about personality, likes/dislikes, what they're good at, and so on...
5. Maybe some people need to trade or pick again... be positive and have fun with it!

Step 4: Read the following verses together...

1. **Philippians 1:6** - *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*
 - a. Question: Talk with your kids about the “good work” God has already begun in them.
2. **II Timothy 3:16-17** - *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
 - a. Question: Talk about the different ways God “equips” us for our “good work.” (Scripture, mentors, church family...)

Step 5: Go around the table having everyone say this blessing to the person on their left:

“You are God’s good work! He is working in you right now and will never stop.”

(or as the parents, grab each child’s shoulders, look them in the eyes and say this blessing.)

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION BOOK LIST

Children's Bibles and Storybook Bibles

1. *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Bishop Desmond Tutu
2. *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
3. *Keep Blue Kids Bible* by Common English Bible

Books on Family Faith Formation

1. *Helping Our Children Grow in Faith* by Robert J. Keeley
2. *Will Our Children Have Faith?* by John H. Westerhof III
3. *Families At The Center Of Faith Formation* by Leif Kehrwald, John Roberto, Gene and Jolene Roehlkepartain
4. *Faith Formation with a New Generation* by John Roberto

Books with practical advice and resources on family faith formation

1. *Sticky Faith* by Dr. Kara E. Powell, Dr. Chap Clark
2. *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren
3. *Parenting in the Pew* by Robbie Castleman
4. *Faithful Families* by Traci Smith
5. *Home Grown* by Karen DeBoer
6. *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch
7. *Every Moment Holy* by Douglas Mckelvey
8. *Teach Us To Pray: Scripture Centered Worship Through The Year* by Lora A. Copley, Elizabeth Vander Haagen

Picture Packs available from www.visualfaith.org.

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