



SUMMERTIME FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR THE WEEK OF 07/12/20

TALKING TO GOD

BY: ADAM FALKENSTEIN

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: MATTHEW 6:9-13

BIG IDEA: GOD LOVES TO HEAR FROM US!

ACTIVITY - PRACTICING PRAYER

SUPPLIES:

- SCISSORS
- BOWL OR HAT
- ATTACHED PRAYER SHEET

COST: IN THE EVENT THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE MOST OF THESE SUPPLIES AT HOME ALREADY, WE RECOMMEND YOU GO THE CHEAP ROUTE; AVOID EXPENSIVE SUPPLIES! THE TOTAL COST FOR THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE AROUND \$5.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Cut up the attached prayers, and place them in a hat or bowl. Have someone reach in the basket without looking, pull out a prayer, and read it out loud. Ask if anyone can relate to each prayer.

2) Have everyone practice writing their own prayers, following these steps:

a) Say "hi" to God and tell him you're glad he always likes to hear from you.

b) Think of something good that happened recently. Tell God what it was and thank him for it.

c) Tell God about a problem you are having right now. It can be with your family, your friends, your school, your faith. Just tell him in your own words.

d) Tell God something you are worried about. It could be something to do with your mom, dad, sibling, friend, a neighbor, relative, pet. Tell him and then ask him to help you out with something you need to solve it.

e) Tell God something you want really badly. It can concern a friendship, a healing, a material item you need, a better relationship. Ask him to provide what you need to help solve it.

f) Tell him anything you did wrong. It could be kicking the dog or being short-tempered with a family member, getting even, hitting, punching, stealing, or even being jealous. It should be something that's been bothering your conscience. Say you're sorry and ask him to wash you clean.

g) Tell him about somebody you've been mad at for something they did. It could be your mom or dad, a friend, an enemy, a sibling or relative. Think of something that's been making you mad. Say to God that you'd like to forgive the person, and how do you do that?

h) Tell God something wrong you've been tempted to do or would do or have done. Something you know isn't right. It can be hitting, punching, or screaming in a certain circumstance. It can be feeling hatred or spreading rumors. It can be breaking one of the Ten Commandments. Think of it, and ask God to protect you from that sort of temptation.

i) Sign off for now. Tell God thanks for hearing and for being glad he sent Jesus. Tell him you will listen up for his answers.

DEVOTIONAL:

Ask: Did you ever have a day so awful that you just wished God would come down from the clouds in heaven, sweep you up, and you could just go up to Heaven for a little vacation? Did you ever have friends get mad at you? Have people ever made fun of you? And while something bad was going on, did God feel like a far-off person who sat up in the sky and just kind of stared at you?

Say: God is not just staring. He's got a whole, whole lot of stuff going on. The Bible says that the number of angels He has created in heaven are called "innumerable", meaning there's too many to count! It also says He is creating a new Heaven and Earth for us. And yet, Jesus tells us that our Heavenly Father knows the number of hairs on each of our heads, and He values each and every one of us. This means we are important to Him! Because of that, He also wants us to talk to Him! Think of your parents or grandparents. Have you ever gone away to camp or to stay at someone's house for a week or more? Have your parents ever gone on vacation without you? They're so happy to see you when you get back! That is the way God feels when you speak to Him. So it's important to tell him what's really on your mind.

Ask: Did anyone struggle to write down something for your prayers? For what reasons?

Allow Responses...

(I couldn't think of anything for some. I kept losing my concentration. I felt weird, like I was talking to myself.)

Say: Not all of these will apply to all of you ever day. Sometimes you can only pray for one of these things, and that's okay. It's easy to forget that someone is really listening. The closer you get to God, the more of His presence you will feel. You wouldn't forget to whom you were talking if your friend was speaking to you right here (put your hand right up close to your face). After a while, God will seem close like that to you. One of the most difficult things about learning to pray is to get over feeling awkward. Public speaking feels awkward. The most private speaking feels very awkward as well! Once God shows you a few times that He is hearing, you won't feel weird doing it!

We just practiced writing down our prayers, which is modeled after the Lord's Prayer. when the disciples asked Jesus how they should pray, this is how He responded...

Read: *Matthew 6:9-13*

Say: The coolest thing about the Lord's Prayer is that we can say it word for word, or just use it as an example of how to pray! Let's follow its example as a family right now.

Family Prayer

Hi God. We just wanted to tell You that You are very cool because you show us how much You love us all the time. We need You to show us how Jesus would react in stressful situations. Tell us so that we can learn to act like Him. Right now, we really want to see opportunities for us to go out and spend time together as a family in a safe way. We hope that is coming soon. we are sorry for the times we don't treat our family members as we should. We are grateful that you forgive us when we mess up; help us to treat other people with that same kind of forgiveness. Please protect us from things that scare us or make us want to do bad things. And above all, God, thank You for being an amazing listener! IWe know you have a lot going on, so we're glad that You care about us and our lives. Amen!

HI THERE, GOD

Cut up these prayers, fold them, and put them in a basket for choosing.

1. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. Today my little brother was SOOO annoying. Sometimes I really can't stand to be around him! If you can't make him different, can you make me different?
2. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. That turtle you put in the road today was really amazing! I could not get over the bright orange in his design. And thanks for choosing me to save him from the cars.
3. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. I would love to know what Jesus would have done if those kids on the bus stop said to him what they said to me today! I just wanted to PUNCH them! Just ignoring them seems totally unfair!
4. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. My mom says we don't have the money for me to go on the class trip. I will be the only one in the class! That is so embarrassing, and I want to go! Will you please fix this?
5. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. Today, I was so mad at my sister that I waited until Mom wasn't looking and I stomped on her foot! I felt good when she cried! Sorry. But Mom treats her better. And it makes me feel bad.
6. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. When I go to Todd's house, he keeps taking food after school, and I can hear his mom telling us, "No more food until dinner!" He just keeps sneaking! It makes me hungry too, and then I want to sneak! Maybe I should tell him that eating all that stuff is really bad for him. Isn't that better than sneaking along with him? What do you think?
7. Hi there, God. Thanks for liking to hear from me and for always being interested in what I have to say. How come you took my grandmother? I miss her really bad. What's it like up there? Will I really see her again?