



# ELEMENTARY AUTHENTIC FAITH

## CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

FAITH. Only five letters, but it's a big word, especially for kids. How we talk about faith at each phase of a person's life matter for how they'll think about faith in the phases to come.

Elementary kids have an active imagination that leads the to ask questions about their world and what they experience. As they learn new stories from the Bible, you'll be amazed at the questions they start to consider. The best thing to remember is to treat each question with care. How you respond to your kids each time they have questions about faith will determine if they continue to talk to you about their faith.

### WHAT **TO** SAY:

"I don't know. Let's find out together." (*It's OK if you don't know everything. Use that as an opportunity to discover something new about God.*)

"Have you read anything in the Bible that means a lot to you?"

"Did you know there are 66 books in the Bible and they all connect to tell one story?"

"I wonder what God's Word says about that...let's look together."

"What is something you are struggling with that I can pray with you about?"

"If you were in the same situation, how would you want to be treated?"

"No question is too big or too small for God to handle."

"That reminds me of a time when I went through something similar, here's what I learned..." (Tell your own faith stories)

"Can I tell you about the first time I trusted Jesus?"

"Let's think of some ways we could serve someone else." (Help kids live out their faith through service.)

"Having faith may not always be easy, but we can trust God no matter what."

"I know it's hard to tell sometimes, but what do you think is the wise choice in this situation?"

### WHAT **NOT** TO SAY:

"We don't ask questions like that."

"I don't struggle with trusting God." (*Everyone at some point struggles with their faith and doubt. Make it personal and be honest about your struggles and how you worked through them.*)

"If you really had faith, you wouldn't feel like this." (*Anxiety, sadness, hurt, etc.*)

"God wants you to read your Bible every single day." (*Reading your Bible regularly is an important Faith Skill, but don't set unrealistic expectations for elementary kids.*)

"Singing is THE way we worship God." (*Singing is A way we worship God. Help kids understand they can worship God simply by how they live their life.*)

"If you really loved God, you would..."

### **JUST REMEMBER:**

DISCOVERY happens when you ask questions. This is a perfect time to reinforce the idea that you are a safe person to talk to and you welcome and honor their curiosity.

**AUTHENTIC FAITH:** Trusting Jesus in a way that transforms how I love God, myself, and the rest of the world.