

HELPING KIDS KNOW GOD FOR PARENTS

You probably don't know everything about God. Neither do we. But there are a few things we can all do that help us know God better. As a parent, if you want your kid to know God, we would encourage you to start by incorporating these four habits into your everyday routine. They won't help your kids eat their vegetables or pass their history test. They won't even guarantee that your kid behaves in public. But they will probably help your kid know God a little better.

HEAR

If you want to get to know someone, what's one of the first things you do? You listen. That person is the only one who can tell you what he is thinking and feeling—what makes him laugh, what makes him angry. The same is true for God. If you want to know God, you have to listen. So, help your kid get in the habit of hearing from God by reading His words. When kids listen to God, it helps them trust Him more.

HELP THEM VALUE SCRIPTURE.

(Give your kid an age appropriate Bible at each stage of life).

- Retell the stories. Use resources from church to talk about the Bible story or principle your kid learned throughout the week.
- Share your experiences. Talk about how the Bible is relevant in your own life.
- Memorize Scripture together. For younger kids, try using games, hand motions, and songs to make it fun.

PRAY

Have you ever been in a relationship where the other person did all the talking? That's lame. And guess what? God thinks so, too. He doesn't want a relationship with us where He's the only one talking. He wants to hear from us—our frustrations, our worries, our fears, and our interests. So, if you want to help your kid know God, help him get in the habit of talking with God. When kids pray, it helps them connect with God.

HELP THEM LEARN TO PRAY.

- Model it. Even if you aren't usually the "pray-out-loud" type, your authentic prayers will be the best way to demonstrate what it means to talk to God.
- Let them pray. Give them low-pressure opportunities to pray: before a snack, at bedtime, driving in the car. Encourage their attempts.
- Talk about prayer together. If you are praying for a friend, let your kid know. Share stories with your kid about when and how you pray.

TALK

Do you talk about your friends—even when they're not around? Sure, you do. You talk about what they did. You talk about what they said. You talk about what you plan to do with them tomorrow. The same is true with God. As we get to know Him more, we want to talk about Him more. So, give your kid opportunities to talk about God with you. When kids talk about God (and listen to others talk about Him), it helps them see God in new ways.

HELP THEM TALK ABOUT FAITH

- Ask questions. Use resources from church to help spark faith conversations whether it's riding in the car to practice, going to lunch after church, or that rare unexpected opportunity when your kid wants to talk "just because."
- Be patient. Give your kid a safe place to talk about their doubts and questions when they have them.
- Stay normal. Faith conversations don't have to be forced. You can talk about how your faith impacts everyday things like work, play, friendships, and choices that you make.

LIVE

Have you ever had someone give you a gift that was so amazing that you just had to find a way to thank them? God has done something amazing for us, and as we get to know God more, it usually begins to change how we live. Some people want to worship God by singing a song, painting a picture, running a marathon, or volunteering at the food bank. Regardless of how we do it, we find a way to worship God with our lives. So, help your kid discover ways they can worship God, too. When a kid lives for God, they honor God in big and small ways.

HELP THEM DISCOVER WORSHIP.

- Celebrate. Have your kids teach you songs they learned in church, or songs that help them remember something about God.
- Serve together. Take your kids with you to go help a family in need. Volunteer. Raise money together to give to a local or global mission.
- Discover their talents. Talk to your kid about how they can use their unique gifts and abilities to work in a way that honors God.

For additional resources, download the Parent CUE App, or check out *Know God for Students and Know God for Kids: 28-day devotional journals to help a kid, well . . . know God.*