



# FAITH CONVERSATION GUIDE

One of the best things you can do for your family is to have at least one intentional conversation with each other about God each week. But we know this can be intimidating! To help you, we've provided some tips as well as a simple framework ANYONE can use to get your family going.

## TIPS FOR A GOOD FAMILY FAITH CONVERSATION

### 1. DECIDE A TIME

Pick a day and time when you can consistently come together as a family without interruptions to talk about God. It could be every Sunday night to end your weekend or it could be at breakfast on Saturday. Or a school night when there are no other activities. Whenever it is, prioritize it by not letting anything take its place. To help get in a rhythm, set a reminder on your phone.

### 2. SET EXPECTATIONS

Set expectations for your family and adjust your expectations of your family. Tell them that during this time you're going to turn the TV off and leave devices in another room. Let them know that you want them to contribute and talk.

But also adjust your expectations. Don't think that these have to be magical experiences where everyone has goosebumps. Don't put pressure on yourself to say something profound. And remember, kids are kids. They're going to get distracted and become antsy. Don't get angry and yell at them. Just get their attention back and keep going.

### 3. IF YOU HAVE PRESCHOOLERS...

Faith conversations are going to look different depending on the age of your kids. If they're below 5, keep it very simple. Consider using a resource like the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. If you have multiple kids, including a preschooler, try one of these ideas:

- Have the preschooler listen to the Bible story and join you in prayer, but when it comes time for discussion, give them something to do that won't be distracting.
- Have them play in another room, and do something simpler just for them like reading a Bible story and praying before bedtime.
- If there are two parents in the house, take turns and have one play with them while the other leads the rest of the family.

## WHAT TO DO

### 1. READ THE STORY

- Pick one of the previous five days' readings from the L3 Story Plan that you can find on the Pinelake App.
- Pick one person in your family to read the story. If it's a longer story, ask multiple people to read and evenly divide the verses amongst each other.

### 2. DISCUSS THE STORY

- Ask 2-3 questions to help your family recount the story and understand what God is saying through it. Below are some sample questions. Freshen up your time with your family by asking different questions from time to time.

#### ASK . . .

- What happened in the story?
- What does this story tell us about God? About ourselves?
- What big thing do you think God wants you to learn from this story?
- What people in the story should we try or not try to be like?
- What does this story tell us about how to love or obey God?
- What does God want you to do, believe, or feel because of the story?
- Was there anything in the story you didn't understand or have questions about?

### 3. PRAY

- There are many different ways you can pray as a family. We suggest changing it up. Sometimes it will be good for one person to pray. Other times everyone can pray.
- Pray about what you learned from the story. For example, if the story taught you should have faith that God can do anything, you could pray that God would help you believe that. Or ask God to do something big like healing someone you know is sick.
- Ask your family what they want prayer for or to pray about until the next time you meet. They can pray for what they say, or another family member can pray for them
- One practical thing you can do is write prayer requests on note cards. Then shuffle them and hand them out when it's time to pray.