Raise Your Game: Play with confidence

PARENT GUIDE Elementary



Use this guide to help your family learn how God can give us confidence.



First, watch this week's video!

Confidence: Living like you believe God is with you

Memory Verse

"So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6a, NIV

Bible Story

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia Acts 8:26-40

Bottom Line

God is with you even when you have questions.

Activity

The Chariot Awaits!

What You Need:

internet access; towel or small blanket; stuffed animal

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game with you and ask them what they know about chariots? Then, look up what chariots might have looked like in biblical days. Find some images online so your child understands that it was like a covered chair on long sticks with wheels that was pulled by people or a horse or other strong animals.

Ask them to put on their imagination caps and imagine what it would be like to transport someone in a chariot. Guide them to spread out the towel on the floor and put the animal or doll on it, then pick it up, move it, and lay it down without letting the animal or doll fall! Then, together, slowly transport their stuffed animal on its "chariot" around the room.

When you are finished say, "Nice job of transporting [name of item]! It seemed like it would be easy, but we had to work together or the person being transported will get dumped out or at least bumped around. Today we heard a Bible story about someone who was being transported in a charjot!"

Talk About the Bible Story

Who was transported by a chariot in our story today? (A very important Ethiopian official)

What new did Philip share with him? (The Good News of Jesus)

Who do you talk to when you have questions?

Do you have any questions about Jesus right now?

Parent: Share some kid-appropriate questions you've had about God, Jesus, or your faith. For the questions that do have answers, tell your child how you learned more. Maybe through your Bible reading, through a conversation with someone else, an experience, or a song. For the questions that don't have answers, talk about how you are able to be okay with that, because you know God is still with you.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Thank You, God for sending the Holy Spirit to be with each of us, all the time. Help us remember that when we follow Jesus, Your Spirit is always there to help us, even though we can't see it. Help our family to share Jesus with everyone we can so they can live with confidence, too. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."





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Key Question

What questions do you have?

Activity

I've Got Questions

What You Need:

timer

What You Do:

Explain to your child that you will be reading them a question, and they have 30 seconds to answer the question. Say, "Even if you aren't sure you are correct, give me a believable answer!" (More than likely, they won't know the actual answer, so they will need to make up a believable answer that they can try to convince you is correct.)

Ask each question and hear out their answer. If they are incorrect, tell them the right answer!

- Why does the skin on your fingers get wrinkly when you've been in the water for a long time? (Signals from the brain cause tiny blood vessels underneath the skin to constrict, which causes the upper layer of skin to wrinkle.)
- Why do we hiccup? (They are caused by involuntary contractions of the diaphragm, which is a muscle that separates your chest from your abdomen. This muscle plays a major role in breathing, so when it contracts, it causes your vocal cords to briefly close, making the sound of a hiccup.)
- ► Why do seashells sound like the ocean? (The shape of a seashell allows them to capture and reflect ambient noise, which amplifies certain frequencies. In other words, it's really just an echo of quieter sounds around you that you're hearing.)
- Why are school buses yellow? (In 1939, transportation officials from all states agreed on a number of safety standards for school buses. They chose yellow because it is a highly visible color, regardless of the time of day.)

Talk About the Bible Story

What questions did the man in our story today have? (He had questions about the scripture he was reading; he had questions about Jesus)

What new did Philip share with him? (The Good News of Jesus)

Who do you talk to when you have questions?

Is it okay to question things we have always been taught?

What questions do you have? (Adults: don't be intimidated by this question. Be aware of the potential open door for tricky discussion and be mindful of questions that should be answered with a temporary response of, "Let's figure out a time to discuss that individually." Also, remember this: you are not expected to have ALL the answers! Some things you might not know, and some questions actually don't have definitive answers. It's okay to tell your kid exactly that.)

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Thank You that You are always with us. Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that You don't mind if we have questions about You. You want us to ask our questions so that we can better understand You. Help us to give answers to others who have questions about You. We love you. Amen!"