

RAISE YOUR CHILD TO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD

Teaching your little one about prayer

To pray is to simply talk to Jesus. No fancy words are needed. Just like you want your child to, one day when they can talk, share life, conversations, fears, joys, problems, and celebrations with you. Jesus wants the exact same thing in His relationship with you!

Pray about little things and big things

Your baby woke up a zillion and one times last night and you are TIRED? Ask God to give you the energy to make it through the day with a joyful heart & good attitude. Your toddler just spilled the entire box of cheerios and they now cover your entire kitchen? Take a minute, ask God to give you His peace. You and your spouse are arguing? Take a second and pray together before continuing the conversation. Praying, especially praying out loud, models for your baby and toddler that you can talk to Jesus about everything and anything.

Use meal times as a time to say “Thanks!”

Use meal time – even nursing time and bottle feeding – as a time to pray and thank God for the food they are about to eat, and for your many blessings.

Use bedtime as a time to connect with your child and with Jesus.

Make sure prayer time is part of your Bedtime routine. You could thank God for the things you did that day, for the people you met or saw, and for those you are know are going through a hard time. It doesn't matter to God if they aren't perfectly quiet or still during your prayer. Prayers can be short like these: “Jesus, please help them sleep soundly!” or for the future “Jesus, please give _____ (child's name) a hunger and thirst for you. Help him/her always know you love them and are with them”.

Pray when emotions are in high gear – your child or yours!

Babies and toddlers can tell when those they are closed to are stressed out or emotional about something. Pray during those times, it will help you and your child. Pray for those times when your toddler is struggling to share or your baby is overtired, that God would work in his or her heart as well.

Need additional ideas? Check out blog.cph.org/everyday-faith/life-of-prayer/

Teaching your little one His Word (the Bible)

Read your Bible to your baby as you have your quiet time. Read a verse with your toddler at mealtime (while they are in their highchair)

Post Bible verses around your house that will encourage remind you of God's promises. Read them as you walk by to your baby or toddler. Pinterest has many free printable verses, or you can make your own. If you care to buy them, check your local Christian book store or a.co/6XiUD2v

Put Scripture on your walls. Cool vinyl ones can be purchased at Hobby Lobby hobbylobby.com/Home-Decor-Frames/Mirrors-Wall-Decor/Vinyl-Wall-Decals/As-for-Me-and-My-House-Vinyl-Wall-Quote/p/43146 or Amazon a.co/hcIe7w2

Listen to Bible verses set to music – and sing along!

Hidden In My Heart, A Lullaby Journey Through Scripture a.co/eA3EmRB
Little Ones Sing Praise by Concordia Publishing – 127 short songs to enjoy a.co/bo7FiUe
Hide Em In Your Heart by Steve Green – Bible verses put to music a.co/9gEmSXS
Songs for Saplings by Dana Dirkson – kid songs that are easy to remember a.co/7nZuL8z
Or tune into the local Christian radio station to fill your home with Christ honoring music – local stations include 88.3 fm, 93.5 fm, 106.3 fm, 1030 am all commercial free.

Use ABC Scripture cards as you introduce your Toddler to the alphabet

Pick a time each day and read one Bible verse with your child every day for a week. This link provides a free set A-Z icanteachmychild.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/ABC-Scripture-Cards.pdf Other sets can be found on Pinterest or here a.co/0C6Ietp. One family did this starting when their child was an infant. That child knew well over 100 Bible verses by memory by the age of four!

Books and DVD

Use Christian devotionals and books to help start the practice of family devotions. Need more help figuring out exactly how to do family devotions? Check out these blogs: proverbsandpacifiers.com/2015/02/how-we-do-family-devotions-2-3-year-old.html blog.cph.org/everyday-faith/how-to-have-family-devotions/

The Baby Bible Storybook by Robin Currie – Provides a verse to memorize, a very short colorful picture along with Bible story (complete with actions to do) and a prayer. a.co/aBT0s8F
Little Visits for Toddlers by Mary Manz Simon – Interactive and short a.co/gQXWYml
The Beginner's Bible for Toddlers by Kelly Pulley – Short Bible stories. Cartoon like illustrations. Board book. a.co/e9MvY8W

Jesus is with me, Jesus knows me and Jesus hears me by Joni Walker - Board books a.co/0fMORu5, a.co/aBrBwYX, a.co/i519xL6

Jesus loves me by Laura Logan – Board book a.co/biGTgwn

Touch and Feel Bible animal book by Allia Nolan – Board book a.co/2b721Fr

God made wonderful me by Ginny Monchamp – Board book with mirror in it. a.co/7pbKunr

God made me from nose to toes by Leslie Parrot – Board book about body parts. a.co/cG9RkIM

The Praise Baby collection by Praise Baby – Move over Baby Einsteins, this is a Christian spin on the Baby Einstein music videos, providing Jesus centered instrumental music and baby/toddler background images to calm and bring a smile to your little one. Over 6 DVDs in set. Each DVD is 35 minutes long. a.co/c35LEI

Great article: focusonthefamily.ca/content/faith-building-ideas-for-infants-and-toddlers