

WALKING ALONG THE WAY
WITH OUR CHILDREN

*How to walk through a passage of Scripture
with our children and help them see
how God teaches and talks to them.*

Getting Started....

1. Remember that teaching our children and helping them hear Father God is a divine assignment and a great honor and privilege.

2. Recognize that your role is to help your children connect with and hear from Father and to facilitate God Himself teaching them rather than you instructing them.

3. If this is a planned time with your child and you know what passage you'll be talking with them about, it would be great to dialog ahead of time and ask Father:

a. What do You want (your child's name) to learn from this passage, and what do You want us to learn about You?

b. Do You have any words of exhortation, comfort, or encouragement for (your child's name) that You want me to share with him or her during this time?

(If you don't have a specific passage in mind, ask the Lord to help you find the one He would like you to study with your child.)

4. If this is a spontaneous time of teaching (perhaps even child-initiated) or a particular moment when God shows you He wants you to sit and pray and share Scripture with your child, please start with a prayer of Illumination.

ILLUMINATION PRAYER

Father God, we come to You right now, expectantly, excited to

hear from You and to learn what You want to show us. Please open (your child's name) and my heart and mind to receive from you what you want us to learn about you, about how you feel about us, and about what you are like.

1. Now read the passage together. Ask your child what he or she thinks God wants us to see in this passage. Ask about what he or she thinks He is saying here about who He is, what He does, or how He feels. For example, if this is about the strength of God, ask specifically what God is telling (your child's name) in this passage about how strong He is or what His strength can do. (Ask directive questions.)

2. Be ready to affirm and rejoice with spontaneous thanksgiving when Father gives understanding and truth to your child. Say something like, "Wow! Do you see what God showed you about Himself right now, how He feels about you, or what He is like? He loves you so much! He's talking to you!"

3. When something is hard to understand, stop and ask God for help, modeling that we look to God to be our Teacher.

4. Close in prayer, asking your child if he or she would like to thank the Lord for how He has taught us.

Remember...

1. Our Father gives progressive revelation to our children, just as He does to us. He may not give them an answer right away. This is okay. We don't want to pressure our children and leave them feeling like God doesn't talk to them! Instead we want to say something like, "Isn't it neat that we're asking God your (Father, Counselor, Teacher, Friend, etc.) about this? I didn't do this until I was __ years old. I think God is so pleased you're asking Him about this now. Remember, His ways and His timing are not always ours. I know that He is going to give you an answer. I

would love to know when He shows you. I will pray also and will share with you what He shows me.” It is important to help you children to know that God does not always give an immediate or magical answer. Will we trust Him and follow Him anyway?

2. It’s good to ask directive questions with your children. You’re helping them learn how to express how God feels about them and what God is saying to them.

3. Last, but certainly not least: Enjoy this time with your child and Heavenly Father. This is not a task to be accomplished but rather something to experience with your child and our Father. Enjoy Him and receive His pleasure. Be sure your children see that He enjoys them and thinks they are great! We want them to receive His pleasure!