

# Talking with Children About God

HELPING CHILDREN TO ACQUIRE THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH



Children are theological beings. Their early imaginations can help us adults to hear Bible stories of miracles and God's presence in a new and more open frame of mind. Many adults find it hard to talk with children about God, perhaps

because they feel they need to have the "right" answer when asked theological/God questions. But there is no "right" answer—there is only continuous growth in our understandings of who God is and how God is present in our lives, no matter what age we are.

When talking with children about theological concepts such as God, miracles, or the details within stories from the Bible, it is important to let the child take the lead. While it is

good to share your own perspectives, be sure to ask questions to help the child work through his/her own understandings. Often, it is these child-like understandings that can transform our own!



**Here are some suggestions to assist you in having a God-Conversation with a child:**

- Ask big questions that have no "right" answer, such as, "Where did you see God today?" or "If Jesus came to visit us, what would you ask him?"

Questions that recognize the mystery of God:

What do we know about...?

What is \_\_\_\_\_ like? What does \_\_\_\_\_ do?

Where is God/Jesus in this story (or movie, etc.)?

When reading Bible stories together, ask questions like:

What do you think happened next?

How do you think \_\_\_\_\_ felt when \_\_\_\_\_?

Why did you think \_\_\_\_\_ said \_\_\_\_\_?

How is this story like our lives?