



# FOR PARENTS

## Pouring God's Word into your children's minds and hearts.

Parents, here's an idea to help you have daily spiritual conversations with your kids at home. This can be done either individually if they leave for school at different times, or together as a family.

- Proverbs is a great book to start, because there's one chapter for every day of the month.
- You don't need to start at the beginning, you can start today.
- Whatever day of the month it is, use that chapter. You can read one verse, a portion of the chapter, or the entire chapter.
- Eg. 3rd day of the month. Chapter 3v 27,28 leads to a discussion on paying our debts.
- The whole conversation could only take a few minutes.
- You could say "I wonder what that means, What do you think?"
- Your kids will surprise you with their insights.
- They might like to choose which verses to discuss.



## Words Kids need to hear

I knew you could do it!

Good on you!

What do you think?

I believe in you! (*When a parent believes in you, you begin to believe in yourself. Express your belief for your children now just the way they are*) Mathew 3v 17

You can count on me! (*It's like saying I care, I'm here to support you*) Hebrews 13v 5

I'm sorry, please forgive me (*the ability to confess (apologise) and forgive are two very important life skills you can share with your child*) James 5v 16



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## Conversation starters

*Moses speaking to the Hebrew people in Deuteronomy 6 v 5-9 says.*

*Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!  
Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts.*

***Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children.***

*Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street;  
talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.*

*Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder;*

*Inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your gates.*

**In other words take every opportunity to chat with your children.**

Table talk - at **meal time** ask questions like "Ok Josh, what were you doing at 11am this morning?" Josh answers and then it's his turn to ask the same question, inserting whatever time he chooses.

**On the Road** - driving along in the car is a perfect opportunity to chat.

**Bedtime** - there are few time during the day when kids are more receptive than when they're ready for bed.

**Correspondence** - place a note in their lunch boxes, tape it to the mirror, or send a note in the mail.

**"Coke dates"** - take your son/daughter on a 'date'. It doesn't have to be expensive to make a big impact.

**Family devotions** - taking time to come together in a family meeting at least once a week to read scripture and pray for each other is a great way to keep a family close and strong.



**After church** - during the drive home, dig a bit deeper into what your son/daughter absorbed at Kids' church.

- Use encouraging words
- Stop and count to 10 before criticising
- Be honest: say what you mean and mean what you say.
- Model good language : children will pick up your words and expressions. If you don't want your child to use swear words, don't use them yourself.