
FAMILY FAITH TALK

Big Idea

You are valuable because you are created in God's image.

Scripture

Genesis 1:1 and 1:27. (Use a Bible to read these verses aloud.)

Engage

Get out some family photos of kids, parents, and grandparents. Have the kids look for similarities between the features of family members. Talk about some of the ways that certain family members have similar mannerisms or habits. Talk about the differences between family members.

Explore

Similar to how kids are made in the image of their parents, we were created in God's image. There are ways that we are like God and ways that we are not. We are not like God in that He is set apart from us by His perfect holiness and love. He has infinite power and knowledge. He created the world out of nothing for His glory. However, as His creation we are made in God's image to know Him and enjoy Him. We share some of His characteristics like love, joy, and kindness. So we have great value not because of secondary things in our lives like appearance, athletics, academics, or ability, but **our value comes in that we are made in God's image**. As you talk to your family about this, possibly mention a person that your child admires (athlete, singer, actor, etc.) and how their talent does not give them their primary value, but being made in the image of God makes them valuable.

Embrace

Talk with your family about how they each view their value. Ask them if they base their self-worth on secondary things (athletics, school, hobbies, etc.). These things can be taken away at any time, but our value always remains because we are created in God's image. Talk to your child about respecting all people, regardless of their personality, race, hobbies, ability, etc. Discuss how it is wrong to harm others (slander, lie, ignore, hurt, murder) because they are made in God's image. Reaffirm your love and favor toward your child because they are created in God's image and placed in your family by God for you to love and to point them toward Christ. Make sure your children know your love is not conditional on secondary things like academics or behavior. Close by praying and thanking God that He created your family in His image and that makes you valuable.

Extend

Make a practice of affirming your unconditional love and appreciation for your children. Look for ways to remind kids of their value to God and the value of all people created in His image.

FAMILY FAITH TALK

Big Idea

We have purpose in bringing God glory.

Scripture

Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them (Isaiah 43:7); So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Engage

Talk to your child about the details of your occupation. Describe the purpose of your specific job in the whole operation of the company (ex, I'm a carpenter. When a family decides they want to build a house, they hire an architect to design the house and a carpenter to build the house so that they will have a place to live.) Ask your child what type of job they may want to do when they grow up.

Explore

Let your child know that they can do any type of job they want when they grow up, but that is not the purpose that they were created for. No job, hobby, or relationship will bring them true purpose and peace apart from living for God's glory - so that people will look to Him! Talk to them about the reason that you exist is to bring God glory and how your job and hobbies can be part of the way that you can bring God glory. Describe God's glory as HIS honor, worth, fame, and brilliance. God allows us to be part of showing His glory to the world. Talk to your child about how you bring God glory through your job and how you interact with others there, or your hobbies or recreation, or even how you have not done well at bringing Him glory in those things and you are going to start.

Embrace

Talk with your child(ren) about how God created them in His image to bring Him glory in this generation. He could have placed them anywhere in time and geography and in any family, but He placed them in your family in this time and generation to bring Him glory. We bring God glory by knowing Him and showing Him to those around us. Reaffirm any talents or abilities that your child may have and that God gave them for them to use for His glory. Ask your child to give an example of how they can bring God glory. Close in prayer thanking God that He allows us to find true purpose in living for His glory.

Extend

Look for examples to discuss with your children of people who choose to live for God's glory and those who choose to live for their own glory. This can be from people you know, stories you read, sharing about heroes of the faith, athletes, movie scenes, etc. Make a practice of reading the Bible in front of your children so that they see how important it is for you to know God's word. Share with them how you are memorizing God's word and following His word. When your child messes up, start your corrections with what the Bible says about the matter.

FAMILY FAITH TALK

Big Idea

God created people with the ability to choose to know and love Him. The first people disobeyed God, which allowed sin and brokenness to enter the world.

Scripture

Genesis 2:1-24, 3:1-13. (Use a Bible to read these verses aloud.)

Engage

Select two things for your child to choose from. Get one thing that you know your child will like and wrap it or place it in something plain or common (like a paper sack or cardboard box). Select another thing that may be disgusting (black jelly beans, rotten banana, etc.) and put it in a container or package that appears attractive (maybe wrap it nicely like a birthday present). Tell your child that you love them and ask them if they love you and trust you. Then show them the two wrapped objects and tell them that they can choose either one they want, but only one. Tell them that because you love them and know what is best for them, they should choose the plain looking package. But allow them to choose which one they want. Make sure to open the other package after they choose, so the child can see what they did not get. Praise them if they listened to you or point out what they missed if they didn't.

Explore

Explain to your child that they had a choice. They could have listened to your advice or ignored it. In the same way, God gives us the ability to choose to follow Him. God created a good world and left Adam in charge. If God had not given Adam the ability to choose to obey Him or not, then Adam would have been like a robot. Adam would have been no different than a child's doll or action figure that has no ability to act without an owner determining every move. God loves His creation and, therefore, gave the first people the ability to choose Him back. God gave Adam one rule: don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam was to trust God to know how to live and enjoy His relationship with God, and lead his family to do the same. But, Adam disobeyed God and ate from the tree - with that decision, sin entered the world! What gives God the most glory and love? A creation who was made/forced to love and obey Him like a robot? Or one that is given a choice and chooses to know, love and follow Him?

Have your child think about a toy they had that was broken and had to be fixed (bike with a flat tire, etc.). Explain that toys were created to bring enjoyment and not to break and lose their purpose. In a similar way, God's good creation has been broken by the sin of people. While God created the world good, Adam and Eve's sin allowed bad things to enter the world. Things such as tornadoes, hurricanes, disease, lies, and death are now part of our world. Although people were created in the image of God to bring Him glory, the image has been broken by sin - so all people are broken by sin. Broken people are separated from God and miss their purpose to bring Him glory. BUT tell your child the good news that God loves His creation so much that He sent His son Jesus to be "broken" for the sins of this world by dying on the cross - your sin, your child's sin, everyone's sin has been paid for by Jesus. The proof that God accepted Jesus's death as payment for our brokenness is that He raised Him from the dead. All who trust in Jesus will be forgiven for their sin and restored to a relationship with God.

Embrace

Love will always be a choice. In the same way that Adam and Eve had the choice to obey God or not, we too get to choose. Sin will also always be a problem for us without Jesus. In the same way that you can fix a toy or a flat tire, the brokenness of people can be "fixed" by trusting in Jesus. Tell your family about a time that you participated in the brokenness in the world - how you were once broken before Jesus. Tell them how you came to trust in Jesus and to receive the forgiveness for the penalty of your brokenness. Ask your child about a time that they sinned. Talk about how sin separates us from God and the need for all people to be "fixed" by trusting in Jesus. If your child has already trusted in Jesus, close in a prayer of thanksgiving. If your child has not yet made a profession of faith, close in prayer asking God to reveal to them their need to trust in Jesus.

Example prayer - Father, thank you that you created us. And although the world was broken by sin, you loved us enough to send your son, Jesus, to be broken for our sins so that all who trust in Jesus will be forgiven and restored. Help me and my family to put away any brokenness of sin in our lives and trust you each day. I ask this in the name of Jesus, amen.

Extend

Whenever something bad happens like a death or natural disaster, remind your child that God loves them and will help them and others through the hard time. Remind them that bad things happen because the world is broken by sin, not because God doesn't care or couldn't stop it. Remind them that since God sent Jesus to be broken for our sin, we set our hope on the next life in heaven where there will be no more brokenness.

FAMILY FAITH TALK

Big Idea

God loves and protects those who trust in Him.

Scripture

Genesis 6:9 - 8:22 (You may want to read a few verses and summarize the rest of the story).

Engage

Try doing some "trust falls" with your child. Tell them to close their eyes, cross their arms, and fall backwards while you catch them. Talk about how easy or hard it was for them to trust you the first time and how it got easier the following times.

Explore

Even after God's good world was broken by sin, God still loved His Creation and cared for them. However, most people turned away from following God. Only Noah's family continued to trust in God. God was so upset by the wickedness of people that He decided to remove everyone that didn't trust in Him through the big flood. Because Noah's family trusted in God, He warned them about the flood and gave them instructions on how to build a giant boat to save themselves and all kinds of animals. Although we don't see in scripture that it had ever rained before, Noah and his family continued to trust God that it would rain. They probably spent around 75 years or more building the ark.

Embrace

If your family lived in this time period, would your family have been seen as righteous before the Lord? Ask your child what they would have done if they were in Noah's sandals. Let them know that because Noah had seen God's faithfulness in the small things, he was able to trust him in the big thing of building the ark. (Like they were able to trust you in the trust falls more easily after they had done it before.) Talk about how God gives people the choice to trust Him, and when they don't, they have to face the consequences. God was gracious that after He told Noah about the flood, the people still had 120 years to repent before the flood actually began. Unfortunately, they didn't turn from their ways. But God loves and protects those who trust in Him. Just as God protected Noah, He will protect all those who trust in Him. Ask your child if they have been following God in their life in the past weeks. Or have they been going their own way. **(CHRIST CONNECTION:** Just as Noah was preserved in the ark from God's judgment of the world in the flood, all those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior will be preserved from God's judgment on sin.)

Example Prayer - Father, thank you that you love and protect those who trust in you. Thank you that you saved Noah and his family. Thank you that you save all those who trust in Jesus. Help us follow you every day. I ask this in the name of Jesus, amen.

Extend

When you find someone in your family worrying about a situation, gently remind them that God loves and protects those who trust in Him. Use Philippians 4:6 (NLT) to encourage them, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."