

Faith at Home Workshop on Prayer – Primary

Start with a welcome, prayer and morning tea

Vision:

Listen to the song Talking to Jesus while people finish their morning tea.

This song, which feels like it is autobiographical, illustrates important ideas about faith:

1. Firstly, it is passed on from one generation to another in the family (in the song there are 4 generations). God designed the family and the home to be the place where faith is nurtured. **You are in the perfect place to influence your children.**
2. And the family in this song, didn't do anything amazing or have amazing resources, just practiced their faith and showed their kids their prayer life. They talked to Jesus in front of their kids. **They passed on faith in the ordinary, everydayness of life. Who is the perfect person to show our kids everyday life? You.**

You are the perfect person in the perfect place. The church's role is to help you make the most of your God given influence.

Skills:

The theme of this workshop is prayer. How do we pray at home, with our kids and role model for them this important part of a relationship with God?

To again quote the song: Talking to Jesus

*There's no wrong way to do it (every family is different, so do what works for you)
There's no bad time to start (it is never too late to start parenting for faith – and its never too late to start talking to Jesus ourselves if we haven't been... we can learn with our kids)
It don't have to sound pretty
Just tell Him what's on your heart
'Cause it's not a religion
'Cause it's more like a friendship
Just talk to your Father
Like you are his kid*

This is not about giving you more to do, it's not about *being* perfect, but about helping you to incorporate prayer in what you are already doing and being real.

3 skills from Parenting from Faith and the Kitchen Table Project...

1. **Creating windows** (like in the song) – offer a glimpse of your spiritual life and how you incorporate prayer in the everyday. Don't keep your prayer life secret. (They see you pray)
2. **Framing and explaining** – explain why and when we pray and help them to see opportunities to talk to God in their everyday life. (They begin to understand what prayer is – a conversation as part of a relationship)

3. **Create some natural rhythms** for your day and family life, where prayer becomes a habit. (We all pray together – leading to opportunities for them to pray on their own)

Activity:

At your tables, divide the suggestions given to you into the 3 skills. See if you can come up with some other examples.

See suggestions sheet.

Resources:

Every now and then, have some fun and do a special prayer activity with your family.

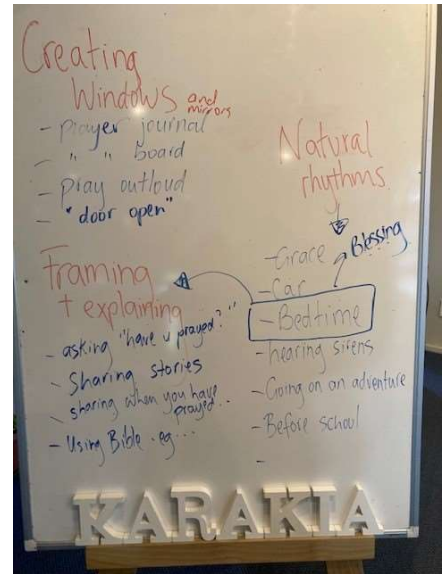
The church will provide you with resources. You might use them for a short time as a way of helping you to have conversations with your children about prayer, to pray together and to use the 3 skills we have talked about.

Example Activity

Building a prayer burger in family or table groups

Resources to take home:

- What do I pray cards
- Prayer burger ingredients
- July prayer calendar
- Dwell – 5 ways to pray with children



*Email jan@obc.org.nz if you would like copies of the powerpoint slides, if you have questions or would like to know more about the take-home resources.