

It is so important to have “Faith Conversations” at home in between Sundays. Many faithful college students said they attributed their strong faith to the fact that they had faith conversations in their home. We hope these will help you to talk about God, making faith relevant wherever you are: in the car, at dinner, in a restaurant, etc.

Taming the Tongue Part II: Reckless Words

Our children need to realize how our words affect us and the others around us. Our tongue can get us into deep trouble or be a blessing to others. Here is a Faith Conversation you can have with your kids on this important and sometimes overlooked subject.

Conversation Starter:

Gossip, backbiting, name calling, put-downs, hurtful sarcasm... They all hurt. How do they affect others (esp. brothers and sisters)?

One minute video for all ages:

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/17001/the-power-of-the-tongue>

For teens: You may find this video more impactful for your junior high/high school teen:

http://www.bluefishtv.com/Store/Downloadable_Video_Illustrations/2049/Gossip

Conversation Scripture:

Look up and read:

- Proverbs 12:8... “Reckless words pierce like a sword.”
- 1 Peter 4:8... “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

(Have your child(ren) get their Bible and highlight these verses. You always want to get into the Word, so they become more familiar with it; they can highlight verses, write in the margins, etc., to have as a reference for later.)

Conversation Discussion:

(You don’t need to ask all these questions. Ask the ones you think will work best with your family.)

1. You have heard the phrase: “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
2. How do our words “pierce like a sword?”
3. When was a time someone hurt you with their words?
4. Do you find it easy to say things that aren’t nice or encouraging? Why do you think that is?
5. Who is more pleasant to be around, someone who is always speaking negative or someone who is encouraging? What kind of person do you want to be?
6. “Love covers over a multiple of sins.” How was this shown in the first video? [It was shown through action. Love in action can heal relationships; it can cover over the wrong, the sin, we have done against someone else.]

7. Who have you hurt with your words? Will you ask them for forgiveness? If you mean it, how are you going to show it? [Ask them to name someone, so you can ask them later if they followed through. If it is someone in the room right now, this could be a wonderful time of healing and restoring broken relationships (we have had to do this a few times!).
8. How has Jesus covered our sin?

Close in prayer.

“God, help us to use our tongue to encourage one another.”

Tip:

Don't forget mom/dad, when you answer these questions too, you show your children you are also in need of grace. They will respect you all the more when you reveal you aren't perfect and in need of forgiveness just as much, or maybe more, than they do. 😊

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