

# FAITH TALKS AND GOD SIGHTINGS

Being a spiritual leader of your family begins in your relationship with God. If you want your children to have a personal relationship with Christ, you may want to check your personal relationship with Christ also.

## God Sightings

God Sightings can be big or small. Watching a baptism on Sunday morning and talking with your child about the meaning of baptism is a God Sighting. Experiencing a sunset together as God's artwork is a God Sighting. When your child asks you how you became a Christian...that's a God Sighting. Your child catching you in personal prayer or Bible study is a God Sighting. Forgiveness is a God Sighting. Laughter is a God Sighting. They go on and on.

These God-orchestrated moments are the things that happen in life as we walk along the road, as we lie down, and as we get up. The art of capitalizing on a God Sighting is fundamental to leading a child spiritually.

**Car Time** - Doesn't it seem that the most time you spend together as a family is when you're in the car, on your way to the next thing you have to do? Try turning off the radio and asking your children what highs and lows they had during the day. Then take a moment to pray for the event that you're headed to next.

**Morning Moments** - Imagine the impact on your children if the first words they heard from you each morning pointed them toward God. Even if you are in a hurry, pray out loud before breakfast or as you head out the door.

**Bed Time** - There might not be a better time to talk about faith than at bedtime. Talk about the day and what is scheduled for tomorrow. Then take time to pray for each other. With teenagers you can ask, "What's on your schedule tomorrow that I can pray for? Do any of your friends need prayer for anything?"

**Praying with your Child** - If you want to create a home that is saturated with the presence of God, pray frequently together. Your kids will learn a lot about how to relate to God from the tone of voice you use when you pray. Share prayer requests, then pray for each other. Be sure to get a report from each person on how God answered prayers. Consider getting a white board, prayer journal or prayer sticks where family prayer requests can be written down. Find the best time of day to pray together: meal time, bed time or morning.

**Devotions** - Choose a time of the day, perhaps at meal time or bed time to have regular devotions with your children. Some like to have



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devotions as a family. Some parents feel that individual devotional time works well, especially if the ages and interests of their children vary.

**Blessing Your Child** - One of the things that God does throughout the Bible is to give blessing to His Children. God speaks blessing to His children. He also encourages parents to do the same for their children. Many parents in the Bible understood the power of blessing their children. When Jacob was reunited with his lost son Joseph, Jacob asked Joseph if he could bless his grandchildren.

Taking time to bless our children with words of prayer and affirmation can transform their lives together as a family. Blessings are not magic formulas - they are a powerful spiritual tool that God has given us to nurture faith and character in the hearts of our kids.

## MILESTONE GOAL:

Be equipped to pray for your child, bless your child, have discussions around the text and recognize God at work in their lives.

## CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Verbally recognize God sightings
- Create intentional talks about faith
- Capitalize on spontaneous moments to discuss faith

## WHEN SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE:

- We recommend you take this course when your child is at any age.

## CELEBRATIONS:

- Having weekly discussions about God and seeing your child's faith grow

## Family Faith Talks

Faith Talks are intentional times set aside at least once each week with your family for conversation around the Bible. We see this as a priority because we are convinced that spiritual training takes place one step at a time in the context of everyday life.

While leading Faith Talks, relationship is your priority, the Bible is your handbook, and life is your classroom. Faith Talks are the primary vehicle for leading your kids along the path between each milestone. Faith Talks can prepare your child for the next milestone by teaching core competencies related to each milestone.

While “family faith talks” is not a phrase in the Bible, it is clear that parents are called to instruct their children in the faith. Moses commands the people of God: *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way*

*and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*  
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

### **Benefits of Family Faith Talks :**

- You will glorify God through obedience to Him
- You will enjoy one regular tie together as a family - creating a forum for important teaching, which will promote unity and harmony.
- You and your children will grow in the ability to think through and discover God’s word.
- By training your children, you will be helping to transform the world for Jesus.

**Topics for Family Faith Talks** - As you plan your Family Faith Talks, you will consider the age of your family. The topics are endless: What are your children struggling with? What family issues need addressing? What are you learning at church, youth group or in children’s ministries? Doctrinal Issues? Holidays? Social Issues?



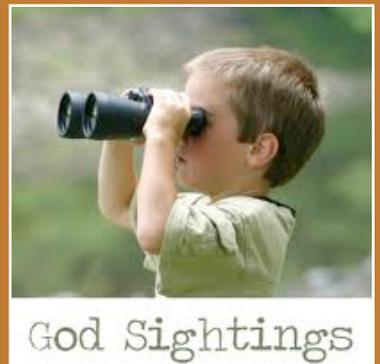
Prayer...



Devotions...



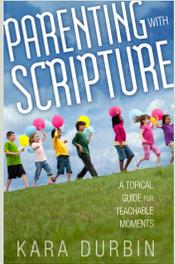
Blessing...



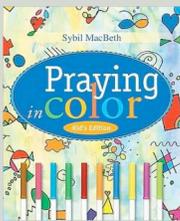
God Sightings...

# RESOURCES

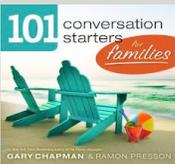
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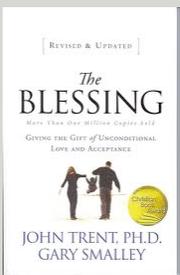
**Parenting with Scripture**  
by Kara Durbin



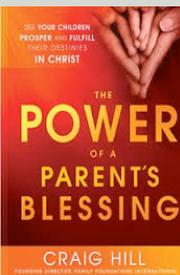
**Praying in Color for Kids**  
by Sybil MacBeth



**101 Conversation Starters for Families**  
by Gary Chapman & Ramon Presson



**The Blessing**  
by John Trent & Gary Smalley



**Power of a Parent's Blessing**  
by Craig Hill