

Preschool Education Night January 28 2021

Here are a few thoughts about teaching your children about God and teaching them how to talk with God.

Talking with God through everyday prayer opportunities:

Prayer is easy. It's just talking with God. To teach children how to do this, you need to talk out loud. There are many prayers that people have already made up that can be starting places for teaching young children to pray. Children memorize things more easily than many adults do. But the point should be to get them to the point that they can talk with God like they talk with you: simply and easily.

Upon waking: The verse that we memorize in Chapel makes a fine morning prayer that can be used first thing when your children wake up:

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

At meal times: There are a number of prayers that are short and easy to remember for beginning a meal:

**Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the world so sweet.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you, God, for everything.**

Or

**Dear Lord Jesus, be our guest,
And let these gifts to us be blessed.**

Before going to sleep:

**"Now I lay me down to sleep.
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
safe I am while in your sight.
Safely let me sleep tonight."**

The point is to get used to talking to God, to thank Him, to ask Him for help, to tell him our hopes and our fears. So, like when speaking to our parents, we start by getting their attention in a respectful way: “Dear Father, Our Father in heaven, Abba Father, Dear Jesus, Dear Lord,” etc. Then we say what’s on our mind: “Thanks for this wonderful day, or help me figure out what to do, or I’m scared.” Then, when we’ve finished, we close saying, “Trusting in you, Jesus. Amen! Or Trusting in your grace and mercy. Amen. Trusting in your steadfast love. Amen.”

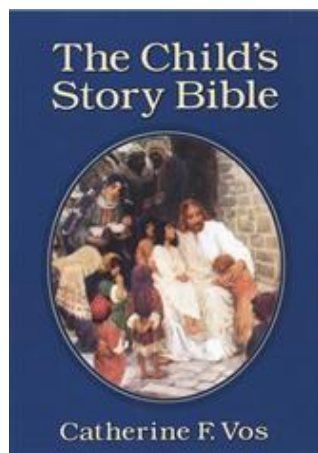
Talking to God through song: My First Hymnal and the Lutheran Service Book have hundreds of songs that teach the nature of God.

Talking about God: There are a few key things that will help your children develop a healthy understanding of the world by understanding who God is and who they are.

Created versus Creator: God is the creator of all things. Everything else is His creation or made from His creation. People don’t create things from nothing. They make things from what was already created. You can reinforce this by pointing out that all the things they encounter in their lives are gifts from God – plants, animals, mountains, oceans, sun, stars, food, clothing, home, friends and family.

Mankind’s Fallen Nature: Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, all creation has suffered from the effects sin and death. No one is perfect and everything wears out and dies. That’s why God came to earth as Jesus to live the perfect life, experience death, and defeat death through His resurrection. When we disobey God by not loving Him first and other people as ourselves, we need to ask God for forgiveness (“I am sorry for this and I want to do better”) and know that because of Jesus, it is His will to forgive us. Then we are expected to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Model this for your children. Actually say the words, “I am sorry for this and I want to do better” and “I forgive you.”

God’s Perfect Nature: God is perfect. God is love. God is just. God is merciful. **We** cannot do these things perfectly. That’s why God had to come to us, as one of us, and do this **for** us. When we trust in who He is and what He has done for us, it covers all our failings. We **try** to live as God wants us to, but we are saved from our sin and eternal death by what He has **already done** for us.



The Child's Story Bible

Catherine F. Vos

Ages 4-10

Full-color Illustrations Throughout

HARDCOVER; Published: 8/29/1983

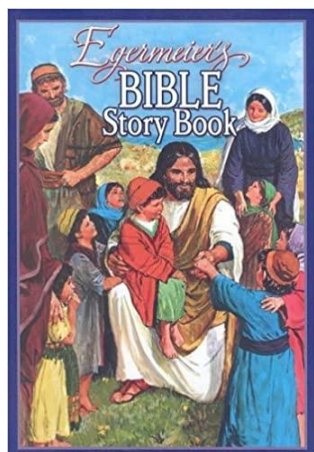
ISBN: 978-0-8028-5011-9

Price: \$ 28.00

410 Pages

Trim Size, in inches: 6.375 x 9.125

<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/Default.aspx?ISBN=9780802850119>



Egermeier's Bible Story Book

by Elsie Egermeier (Author)

ASIN : B0053URBSG

Publisher : Warner Press (July 1, 2008)

Language : English

Hardcover from \$39.92

Paperback \$19.57

<https://www.amazon.com/Egermeiers-Bible-Story-Book-Egermeier/dp/B0053URBSG>