

21
DAYS
OF
PRAYER
Kidz Edition



DAY 1 - TURN DOWN THE NOISE FOR GOD

James 4:8 NLT: Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV: You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Have you ever tried to hear someone talking to you while the TV was on, people were talking, and toys were everywhere? It's hard to listen when there's a lot going on. But when the room gets quiet, you can finally hear the person clearly.

Our lives can feel like that too. We have school, friends, games, shows, and lots of fun things. Those aren't bad — but sometimes they make it harder to focus on God.

During this fast, we are learning to give God more of our attention. That means slowing down and spending time with Him — talking to Him, worshiping Him, and learning about Him.

And God promises something amazing: When we come close to God... God comes close to us. He loves when you want to be near Him. He wants to help you, guide you, and remind you how much He loves you.

Prayer

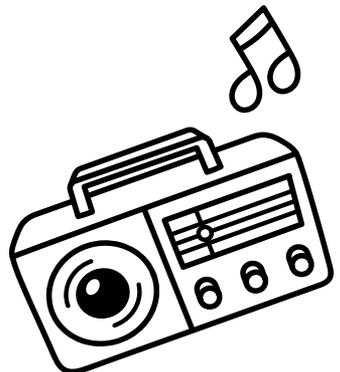
Dear God, thank You that I can come close to You. Help me focus on You and not get distracted. Thank You for loving me and being with me every day. Amen.

Activity

In the space below, draw two pictures:

- One of a noisy place (like TV on, toys everywhere, lots happening)
- One of a quiet moment with you and God (like praying, singing, or reading the Bible)

Circle the picture where it is easier to listen to God.



DAY 2 - FASTING HELPS US PUT GOD FIRST

Ezra 8:21 NIV: There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

1 Peter 5:6 NIV: Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Have you ever seen someone brag?

Like when a kid says: "I'm the best!" or "No one is better than me!"

Bragging means we are trying to make ourselves look big. But God wants us to be humble — that means remembering that: God is the greatest, and every good thing we have comes from Him.

Sometimes we do really well at something — like schoolwork, sports, games, or art — and that feels good! But instead of showing off, we should thank God and stay kind and gentle.

During this fast, we are learning to focus more on God and remember that we need Him. We don't brag. We don't try to look better than others. We choose humble hearts that say: "God, I need You." And when we stay humble, God promises He will help us and take care of us.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for loving me. Help me stay humble and remember You are the greatest. When I do something well, help me thank You first. And when I make mistakes, help me keep going and not give up. Amen.

Activity

In the space below:

Write or draw ONE thing you're good at.

(Like drawing, being kind, sports, reading, singing, helping, etc.)

Then underneath it, write: "Thank You, God, for this gift."

This helps remind us that every good thing comes from Him.

DAY 3 - FASTING HELPS US FOLLOW GOD'S WAY

Acts 13:2-3 NIV: While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Have you ever had to make a choice, like which game to play? Who to sit with? What to do first? Sometimes choices are easy — but sometimes they aren't.

God wants to help us know what He wants for our lives. That's called God's will. It means His plan. And His plan is always good, even when it's sometimes hard.

In the Bible, Barnabas and Paul (who used to be called Saul) were spending time worshiping God and fasting. While they were doing that, God showed them what He wanted them to do next — to go and tell people about Jesus.

They didn't just make their own plan. They asked God first. And then — they obeyed.

During this fast, we are learning to do the same thing: "God, what do You want for my life?"

Sometimes following God isn't always easy. Barnabas and Paul went through hard things — but God was with them every step of the way. And He will be with you too.

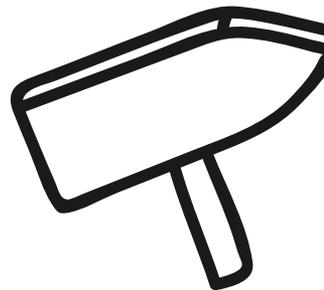
You can trust Him. He loves you. And His plans are always right.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You have a plan for my life. Help me trust You and listen to what You want for me. Even when things are hard, remind me that You are with me. I want Your way, not just my way. Amen.

Activity

Below, write or draw ONE area of your life where you want God to help you (like school, friends, family, choices, or feelings). Under it, write: "God, I trust You."



DAY 4 - FASTING HELPS US SAY NO TO SIN

Galatians 5:16 NIV: So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NIV: No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

The Bible talks about something called "the flesh." That means the part of us that just wants our own way — even when it's not what God wants. It's like when you want to argue, complain, be greedy, or do what feels easy instead of what is right.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Paul (a leader in the Bible) said following Jesus is kind of like running a race. Runners have to practice and train. Sometimes running feels hard, and their body wants to quit, but they keep going so they can finish the race well.

Following Jesus is like that. Sometimes our feelings want to lead us the wrong way, but God helps us say "no" to wrong choices and "yes" to Him. During this fast, we are learning to listen to God more than our feelings. When we do, we grow stronger on the inside — kind, patient, loving, and brave. God helps us keep going, even when it's hard.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for helping me follow You. When my feelings want to lead me the wrong way, help me choose what is right. Make me strong on the inside so I can honor You. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw two arrows: One arrow pointing left and one arrow pointing right.

Above the left arrow, write: "My way" Above the right arrow, write: "God's way"

Then circle "God's way."

DAY 5 - FASTING HELPS US PRAY MORE

Ezra 8:23 NIV: So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Acts 14:23 NIV: Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Sometimes life gets busy. We pray before bed, at church, or when something is wrong — but we may forget to really slow down and talk to God. During a fast, we learn to pause and spend more time with Him.

Prayer isn't about fancy words or saying everything just right. Prayer is simply talking to God — the One who already knows your heart and loves you so much. He wants to hear about your worries, your questions, your happy moments, and your thank-yous.

Sometimes prayer feels exciting. Sometimes it feels quiet. But even when you don't "feel" anything, God still hears you. He is always listening, and He loves when you spend time with Him.

During this fast, let prayer be more than just something you rush through. Talk to God — and also take time to listen.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for always hearing me when I pray. Help me slow down, talk to You more, and listen for Your guidance. Thank You for loving me every day. Amen.

Activity

Below, write one word or short sentence about what comes to your mind when you are quiet with God for a moment. It could be a feeling (like "peace," "thankful," or "hope") or a thought about doing what is right.

DAY 6 - FASTING HELPS US WHEN WE NEED GOD

Isaiah 58:6 NIV: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

Joel 2:12 NIV: "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Have you ever blown up a balloon and kept blowing and blowing until your cheeks got tired? It almost feels like nothing is happening — and then suddenly, POP! Something finally changes.

Sometimes life feels like that. There are times when things feel heavy, sad, or hard. You pray and talk to God, but it doesn't seem different yet. During a fast, we spend extra time with God and ask Him to help us with those hard things.

God doesn't always fix everything right away — but He always helps. Sometimes He changes the problem. Sometimes He helps our hearts feel calmer, braver, or more peaceful on the inside. Either way, He is close and He cares.

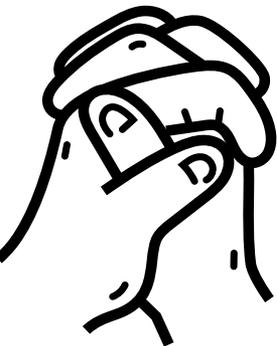
And if life ever feels extra hard, don't give up. God sees you. He loves you. He is helping, even when you can't see it yet.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being with me when things feel hard. Please help me trust You and remember that You care about me. Give me Your peace in my heart. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw a balloon. Inside the balloon, write or draw something you want God to help you with. Then under it, write: "God is helping me."



DAY 7 - FASTING IS A WAY TO LOVE GOD

Romans 12:1 NIV: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Psalms 63:1 NIV: You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

This week we've learned that fasting helps us focus on God, listen to Him, and trust Him more. But there is something really important to remember: fasting is also a way to worship God.

Worship doesn't just mean singing at church. Worship means showing God that He is the most important One in your life. When you fast, you are saying, "God, You matter more than anything else."

Sometimes other things try to take first place in our hearts — like games, fun stuff, busyness, or wanting our own way. Those things aren't always bad, but fasting helps us slow down and remember that God comes first.

So as you fast, think of it like this: you are giving your attention, your love, and your heart to God. Not because you want a reward — but because He is good, He loves you, and He deserves your worship.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for loving me. Help me remember that You are the most important One in my life. I want my whole life to show that I love and worship You. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw a big crown — any kind you want. Inside the crown, write the word "GOD" nice and big. Then around the crown (outside it), draw or write some things you like — like games, friends, sports, pets, or toys. Last step: draw a heart around the crown to show that God is number one in your heart.



DAY 8 - WHY WE PRAY

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer is talking to God — and listening to Him too. We don't have to sound fancy. We don't have to say everything perfectly. God already knows our hearts, and He loves when we come to Him.

Sometimes we pray because we need help. Sometimes we pray to say thank You. Sometimes we pray because we're worried or sad. And sometimes we just talk to God because we love Him. The Bible tells us that when we pray, we don't have to stay worried. God gives us peace inside our hearts, even when things are still tough.

Listening to God can look like remembering a Bible verse, feeling peace, getting a gentle idea about what is right, or feeling reminded to trust Him. God always hears you — and He always cares.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that I can talk to You anytime. Help me not to worry, but to pray and trust You. Thank You for giving me peace in my heart. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw a simple phone. Inside the phone, write one short prayer to God — something you want to tell Him today.

DAY 9 - HOW JESUS TAUGHT TO PRAY

Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

One day, Jesus' friends asked Him how to pray. Jesus taught them a special prayer we call The Lord's Prayer. It shows us the kinds of things we can talk to God about.

Here's what it means in simple words:

"Our Father in heaven, holy is Your name."

We remember that God is our loving Father and He is holy and amazing.

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done."

We ask God to lead our lives and help us choose His way.

"Give us today our daily bread."

We ask God to take care of our needs.

"Forgive us... as we forgive others."

We ask God to forgive us — and we choose to forgive people too.

"Lead us... and protect us."

We ask God to guide us and keep us safe from wrong and evil.

"Yours is the kingdom and glory."

We end by praising God, because He is always good.

The Lord's Prayer is not just something we say. It helps us remember how to talk to God from our hearts.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for teaching us how to pray. Help me talk to You honestly and trust You to lead me, care for me, and forgive me. I love You. Amen.

Activity

Below, write one short prayer to God in your own words.

DAY 10 - PRAYER IS STRONG

1 John 5:14-15 NIV: This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

James 5:16 NIV: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Have you ever had your device almost run out of battery? When it gets down to 1%, you hurry to plug it in — because without power, it can't do very much.

Prayer is kind of like that for our hearts. It helps us stay close to God — the real source of strength and hope. Prayer isn't just words we say. God really listens. He really cares. And He really works in our lives — sometimes by changing things, and sometimes by giving us peace and strength inside.

You don't have to use big or fancy words. God already knows what's going on, and He still wants you to talk to Him. You can pray for yourself, for your family, your friends, your church — anyone. And when you pray, you can trust that God hears you every single time.

Prayer changes situations sometimes — but it always changes us.

Prayer

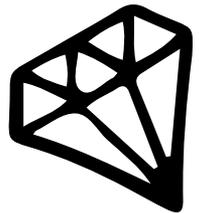
Dear God, thank You for listening when I pray. Help me remember that prayer is powerful because You are powerful. Give me faith to trust You, and help me keep talking to You every day. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw a plug and a cord.

On the cord, write a few short things you can pray about (like family, friends, church, or someone who needs help).

Under it, write: "Prayer keeps me close to God."



DAY 11 - PRAY AND BELIEVE

Mark 11:24 NIV: Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Have you ever ordered something online or been told a gift is coming — and even though you can't see it yet, you believe it's real? You start waiting for it and getting excited because you trust it's on the way.

That's a little like having faith when we pray. When we pray, we aren't just talking into the air. We are talking to a real God who loves us and hears us. Faith means trusting that God is listening and that He is working — even when we don't see the answer yet.

That doesn't mean God gives us everything we want like a vending machine. Sometimes His answer is yes, no, or wait. But faith means we keep trusting Him because He is good and He knows what's best for us.

So when you pray, don't just say the words — trust God with them. He hears you. He loves you. And He is always at work.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for hearing me when I pray. Help me trust You, even when I can't see what You're doing yet. Give me a believing heart and help my faith grow. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw a pair of glasses.

Inside the lenses, write or draw something you are praying for.

Under the glasses, write: "Even when I can't see it yet, I trust God."

DAY 12 - PRAYER AND SONGS TO GOD GO TOGETHER

Psalm 95:6 NIV: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker

We sometimes think prayer and worship are two different things. Prayer is talking to God. Worship is singing to God. But really — they go together!

When we pray, we can tell God thank You, tell Him we love Him, and talk about how good He is. And when we worship, many songs are actually prayers. The words we sing are things we want to say to God from our hearts.

King David in the Bible wrote songs that were also prayers. He talked to God, trusted Him, and praised Him — sometimes all in the same song! That shows us that worship isn't just music — it's loving God with our words, our hearts, and our lives.

So when you sing to God, remember — you're also praying.

And when you pray, you can worship too.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that I can pray to You and worship You. Help my prayers and my songs come from my heart. I love You. Amen.

Activity

Today, ask your parents to play your (or theirs) favorite worship song and sing it to Jesus like He is in the room listening.



DAY 13 - PRAYING WHEN DAYS ARE HARD

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Some days feel great — like when you have fun at school, your friends play with you, or something good happens.

But some days feel hard — like when you get in trouble, someone is unkind, you feel left out, you get a bad grade, something sad happens, or things just don't go the way you wanted.

The Bible tells us that we can talk to God on every kind of day. God doesn't only listen when life is good. He listens when we feel upset, scared, mad, shy, nervous, or sad too.

"Give thanks in every situation" means give God thanks all the time — be thankful even when we are sad, angry, hurt, or worried. It doesn't mean we always have to be happy. It just means we can still thank God because:

He is with us at school.

He is with us at home.

He knows how we feel.

And He will help us.

So on good days you can pray, "Thank You, God!"

And on hard days you can pray, "God, today was really hard. Please help me."

And God hears you — every single time.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being with me at school, at home, and everywhere I go. When I have a good day, help me say thank You. When I have a hard day, help me talk to You and remember that You love me. Amen.

Activity

Fill in the blank:

When... someone is unkind, I can pray:

When... I mess up or get in trouble, I can pray:

When... I feel left out or sad, I can pray:

DAY 14 - LISTEN WHEN YOU PRAY

Psalm 46:10 NIV: He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Have you ever been talking to someone and they say, "I already told you that — you just weren't listening"? That doesn't feel great.

Sometimes we like talking more than listening. But prayer isn't just us talking. Prayer also means slowing down and paying attention to God.

Most of the time, God doesn't talk to us in a big loud voice. Instead, He helps us know what is right in simple ways — like:

- when we read the Bible and learn what God says
- when we remember something true about God
- when we feel reminded to do the right thing
- when a trusted person (parent, leader, or teacher from church) helps us learn about God

That's why the Bible says, "Be still." Sometimes we need to slow down, be quiet for a moment, and think about God.

We can ask God things like:

"God, what is the right thing to do?"

"God, help me obey You."

"God, help me listen."

And He really will guide us.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that I can talk to You. Please help me slow down, be quiet for a little while, and pay attention to You. Help me learn from the Bible and from people who teach me about You. Amen.

Activity

Below, write this sentence: "God, I want to listen to You."

Then sit quietly for one minute. No talking. No moving around. Just still.

After the minute, write one short thing you remembered about God — like: God loves me. God is with me. God wants me to choose what is right.



DAY 15 - GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER

Matthew 18:19-20 ESV: Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Have you ever noticed how some things feel better when you're not alone?

- Games are more fun with friends.
- Lunch is better when someone sits with you.
- Hard days feel a little easier when someone cares.

God made us to need each other.

The Bible says that when people come together to follow Jesus — like at church, in a group, or even praying with a friend or family — God is there with them. He is close. He is paying attention. He is helping.

That means when we sing at church... God is with us.
When we pray together... God is with us.
When we read the Bible together... God is with us.
When we help each other... God is with us.

God doesn't want us to follow Him all by ourselves. He gives us people to learn with, pray with, and grow with — so we can help each other keep going.

So when you are with others who love Jesus, remember:

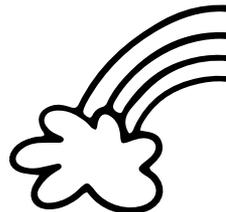
You are not alone. God is with you.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being with us when we come together. Thank You for my friends, my family, and my church. Help me encourage others and remind them that You are near. Amen.

Activity

Draw a picture of a church and draw you and your friends inside. Show how happy you are when you get to be with your friends at church.



DAY 16 - GOD BEING WITH US IS SPECIAL

Exodus 33:18-23 ESV: Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Have you ever been outside a concert, a football game, or a big event and you could hear what was happening inside? You could hear the music or the crowd, and you knew something exciting was going on — but you weren't really there inside with everyone else. You were close... but not all the way in.

In the Bible, Moses asked God if he could see how great and amazing God is. God let Moses see only a little bit, because God is so powerful that no one can see all of Him at once. And even that small part was incredible.

Here's what is amazing for us today: God is not far away. He doesn't just "pass by" for a moment. When we follow Jesus, God is with us — and when we come together with others who love Jesus, He is there with us too.

Sometimes we forget how special that is. Church starts to feel normal. Praying together starts to feel normal. But it isn't just like being outside the concert — we are actually with God. So when you come into church, or pray with your family, remember: God is really there. God is close. And God is amazing.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being with me. Help me remember how special it is to be in Your presence. Thank You that I don't have to be far away from You — You are close. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw two pictures side-by-side.

In the first box, draw someone standing outside a building hearing music or cheering. In the second box, draw people inside worshipping God together at church.



DAY 17 - JESUS MADE A WAY TO GOD

Hebrews 9:1-10 ESV: Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

Have you ever heard about a brand-new video game that isn't out yet — but a few lucky people get to play it early? Only certain people get early access. Everyone else has to wait.

That's a little like how it used to be with God's presence in the Old Testament. God was real. God was with His people. But only certain people — like priests — were allowed to go into the special place to worship Him. And even they could only go at certain times and follow special rules. Most people had to stay back.

It was like a preview — not the full thing yet. But then Jesus came.

Jesus died on the cross and made a way for everyone who follows Him to come close to God. We don't have to stay far away anymore. We don't have to wonder if we're allowed. Jesus opened the way. Sometimes people think, "I'm not good enough to talk to God." But Jesus says, "You CAN come. I made the way for you."

So now we can pray. We can worship. We can be close to God...

because of Jesus — not because we are perfect.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that Jesus made a way for me to come close to You. Thank You that I don't have to stay far away. Help me remember that You welcome me because of Jesus. Amen.

Activity

Write a prayer to God thanking Him for sending Jesus to save us.

DAY 18 - YOU CAN TALK TO GOD ABOUT ANYTHING

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You probably have lots of friends you play with. You laugh, talk, and have fun together.

But then there may be a few friends you feel really close to. They're the friends you can talk to when you feel sad, worried, or upset. You don't have to pretend with them. You can be honest. That's kind of what this Bible verse is teaching us about Jesus.

Jesus knows what it's like to be human. He knows what it feels like to be tired... left out... tempted... or sad.

So when we pray, we don't have to hide our real feelings. We don't have to act "perfect." We don't have to only say small prayers like: "Help me have a good day."

We can also say things like: "God, I feel nervous." "God, I'm upset." "God, today was really hard." "God, I want to know You more."

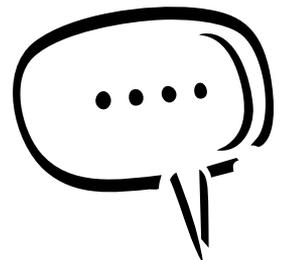
God invites us to come to Him with confidence. That means we can talk to Him honestly — like a child talking to a loving Father who really cares. And the best part? God always listens. God always understands. And God always loves you. You never have to pretend with Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that Jesus understands me. Thank You that I can talk to You about anything — the good things and the hard things. Help me remember that You always listen and always care. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw you talking to God (maybe praying, or just sitting and thinking). Underneath write: "I can talk to God about anything."



DAY 19 - LOOKING FOR GOD

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. [13] You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Have you ever looked everywhere for something... only to realize it was right in front of you the whole time?

Like your shoes were already by the door. Or your pencil was behind your ear. Or... your tablet was in your hand the whole time. It wasn't really lost. You just didn't notice it yet. That's a little like the way it is with God.

God isn't far away. He isn't hiding from you. He is ALWAYS close. But the Bible says we find God when we really look for Him — with our whole heart.

That means: Not just thinking about God sometimes. Not just when we have time. Not just quick prayers.

But really wanting to know Him, and spending time talking to Him, and listening to Him, and loving Him.

God doesn't want to just be squished into the leftover time of our day. He wants our hearts — not just our attention for a second.

And here's the promise: When you truly look for God... you WILL find Him.

Because He was right there the whole time. And He LOVES when His children want to be close to Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You are never far away from me. Help me look for You with my whole heart and not let other things distract me. Thank You that when I seek You, I will find You. I want to be close to You. Amen.

Activity

Below, draw a big heart. Inside the heart, write or draw things that help you look for God, like:

- praying
- reading the Bible
- worshiping
- talking about God
- being still with Him



DAY 20 - GOD SOMETIMES WHISPERS SOFTLY

1 Kings 19:11-13 NIV: The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Have you ever tried to talk to someone in a really loud place, like a lunchroom or a birthday party? Sometimes you have to lean in close to hear them. In the Bible, Elijah was waiting to hear God. A huge wind came — but God wasn't in the wind. Then the ground shook — but God wasn't in the earthquake. Then there was fire — but God wasn't in the fire. After that came a quiet, gentle whisper.

That's when Elijah heard God. God doesn't always shout. Sometimes He speaks softly when we are calm, still, and listening.

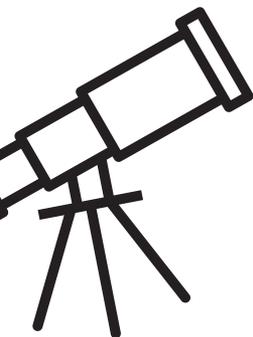
That's why it helps to slow down, take a deep breath, and quiet our hearts. God loves you — and when He whispers, it's like He is saying, "I'm here. I love you. Listen close."

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You are always near me. Help me slow down and be quiet so I can listen to You. Thank You that You love me and speak gently to me. Amen.

Activity

Sit quietly for 30 seconds. Then write: "God, I want to listen for You." If you want, you may also draw Elijah listening to God.



DAY 21 - STAY CLOSE TO JESUS

John 15:4-8 NIV: Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Jesus said that He is like a vine and we are like the branches on the vine. A branch can only stay healthy and grow fruit if it stays connected. If it breaks off, it dries up. That's the same with us. We grow best when we stay close to Jesus — talking to Him, learning about Him, worshiping Him, and remembering that He is with us every day. These 21 days have helped you think about God more — but this isn't the end. Jesus doesn't want us to be close to Him for a short time and then forget about Him. He wants us to stay connected to Him all the time. When we stay close to Jesus, He helps us grow in love, kindness, patience, and strength — like good fruit growing from a healthy tree. So even after this fast ends, keep walking with Him. Keep praying. Keep listening. Keep trusting. Staying close to Jesus is the best way to live.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being with me these 21 days. Help me to stay close to You every day. When I am happy — stay with me. When I am sad — stay with me. When I am busy — stay with me. Help me to remember that I need You and that You love me. I want to stay connected to You always. Amen.

Activity

Draw a vine with branches. On the branches, write or draw good "fruit" Jesus grows in you (like love, kindness, joy, patience, or courage). Write under it: "I want to stay close to Jesus."

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