

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith

Speaking to Our Father

It was not so long ago that you first heard your child say, “Mama” or “Dada.” That first sign of recognition of the relationship we have with our children will always be a treasure. Even today, when we see our children after school, we experience a personal thrill and comfort in hearing them call, “Hi, Mom” or “Hi, Dad.” Joseph must have felt a similar thrill when Jesus called him *Abba*, the Hebrew word for “Dad.” We know that Jesus had a special affection for the word, because when his disciples asked him how to pray, he told them to address God as *Abba*. Jesus teaches us to recognize that, just as we are thrilled to hear from our children, God our Father is always happy to hear from us.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Jesus referred to God as *Abba*, or Dad. Tell the story of your name. Were you named after someone? If so, after whom? What is the meaning of your name? Do you have a nickname? Discuss how each family member came to be named.

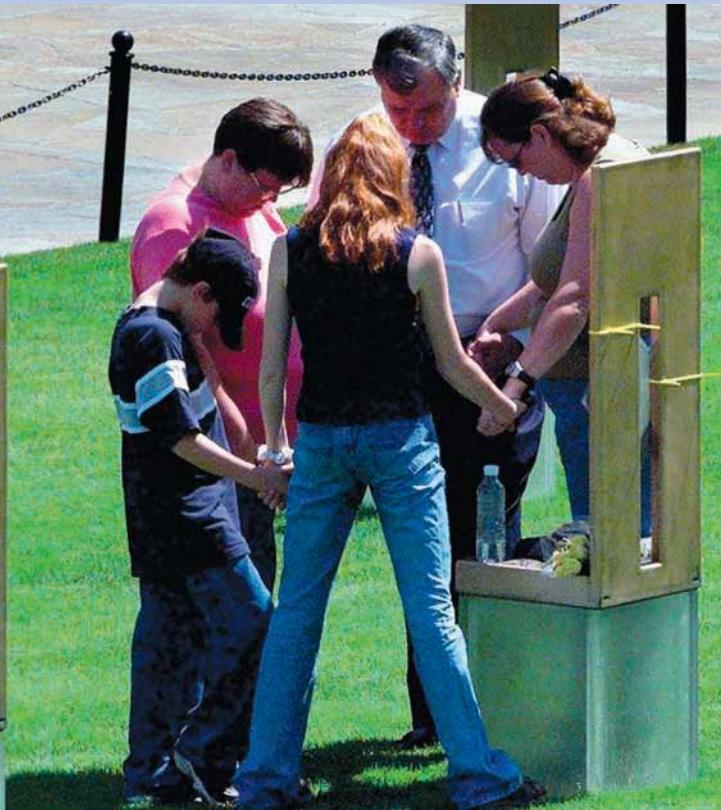
Hints for at Home

Make a Lord’s Prayer Jigsaw Puzzle. On a large piece of paper or poster board, print the first half of the Lord’s Prayer, separating it into short phrases. Let your child color or paint the background. Then, carefully cut out each phrase, altering the shapes slightly so that they resemble puzzle pieces. Now, let your child put the prayer back together.



Focus on Prayer

Your child is learning the first half of the Lord’s Prayer. Pray it together slowly and clearly to help him or her memorize and understand it. Visit www.FindingGod.org for the words to the Lord’s Prayer.



Spirituality in Action

In God’s eyes we are all brothers and sisters. Children learn from their parents how to treat others. Talk with your child about how God wants us to treat others. Discuss ways to be friendly to a new student. Encourage ideas about sharing toys, playing fairly, and including others.

www.findinggod.com