



First, we liked the book [Faith at Home: A Handbook for Cautiously Christian Parents](#). We (even the priest) learned a lot about the why behind the what we do. We are glad to have it as a resource - something to reference in the future. **We recommend it to all y'all and found it easy to read.**

We talked about....

How do we teach our children to pray? Our kids learn mostly from watching us. That's gonna be a theme in all of this. So we gotta learn to pray first.

Maybe try making help/thanks lists at home, then go a next step and do help/thanks/sorry. Ready for more? Try wow/help/thanks/sorry (wow = naming when God makes you go wow).

Also your hand can help you pray!

I have heard of people who make a stack of their christmas cards people send them, and then work through the stack, praying for one sender a day.



I have heard of people who have make a jar of popsicle sticks with prayer cues, and family members get to draw a stick and pray: Thank God for an animal. Pray for a classmate/coworker in need. Pray for a neighbor. Pray for someone who is sick. Thank God for a recent fun time. Ask God for help with something.

These are some ideas. Do you have others?

What do we tell them is the reason we pray if it isn't to change outcomes?

A grown up asked me if we think God pays more attention to those we pray for than those we don't pray for. I said I don't think so. But I can see what the question was asked, and I can see why our kids might wonder themselves. Also, what happens if they pray that their grandparent gets better and they don't? Some ideas: We pray to remind ourselves that God cares about the people and things we care about. We pray to share our worries and concerns with God, just like we tell them to a friend or family member. We pray to help us realize we are God's hands and feet in the world. We pray to feel connected to God.

How do we help our children understand why bad things happen? Mr Rogers for the win here. We hear it a lot. Because it is true. We grown ups need to pay attention to where we see God showing up in hard times, and point it out to our children. Help them notice and see all the people allowing God to work through them, making sure to do their part so that love wins.

How do we talk about death with our children? My friends just wrote a book called [Grandpa's Tent.](#)

What's a good children's bible?

I like the [Shine Bible](#)

And Bishop Desmond Tutu's [Story Bible](#)

[Fourth Grade Reading Level whole Bible](#) (children's bible's are often only excerpts)

One parent is more secular. How does that work? I happened upon this book. I haven't read it. [Relax, It's Just God: How and Why to Talk to Your Kids About Religion When You're Not Religious.](#) by Wendy Thomas Russell

How do I learn to talk to my child about God?

We talked about how it might be good to read books where people talk about God so we can see how others do it.

I like Jen Hatmaker, for example: [Of Mess and Moxie: Wrangling Delight Out of This Wild and Glorious Life](#)

Bob Goff [Everybody, Always](#) and [Love Does](#)

Anne Lamott - so many good choices. I can say I spit my gum out in my book while in the airport because I was laughing so hard reading [Some Assembly Required](#)

Do you have more suggestions to add to the mix?

We probably need to curate a list of podcast that we can recommend each other, because lots of us don't have time to read these days!

Talk about when you feel God close: (Gosh, being at the ocean makes me feel in awe of God, and that gives me comfort) and when you feel like God is far away (When I am mean to someone). Wonder together how to remind ourselves that God is always with us in those moments where we can't feel it. What helps us feel close to God? Singing a song (Jesus loves me!)? Saying a prayer (Be still and know that I am God)? Thinking of five people who love us no matter what?

We need ways to serve God and the community together but age limits are tough!

[DC Diaper Bank](#) has volunteer opportunities for all ages.

[Manna Food Center](#) welcomes volunteers over the age of seven

I've heard rumors that children can help sort and organize donations at [A Wider Circle](#).

Think of ways to serve at church! Families can usher together, prep or clean up for coffee hour together, deliver flowers after the service to a parishioner in need of some sunshine AND.... you are always welcome to some of those art projects and drawing that come home from school to a home bound member of the parish.

Do you know of other ways to serve God and your neighbor as a family?

I just ordered some of these books to have available for you guys to flip through and maybe decide you need to take one or two home. If they come in by Sunday, I'll spread them out upstairs in Ludlum Parish Hall.

