

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

## Car Time

- Provide parents with a list of conversation starters to use in the car.
- Provide parents with a few discussion questions related to what the children learned in church the previous week.
- Share audio books or dramas that spark conversations. Some great discussions can happen after listening to Adventures in Odyssey. Check out these audio stories at <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/adventures-in-odyssey/>
- Prayer is powerful! Encourage parents to pray with their children before school, on the way to sports activities, etc.
- Help influencers be intentional about this time. Suggest that they write down a topic or two at the beginning of the week that they want to discuss with their children in the car. By writing it down, they are less likely to forget. Not every car drive has to include a spiritual conversation, but they should make a few topics or questions a priority each week.
- Teach parents how to recognize teachable moments. For example, if you pass another vehicle that has been in an accident, pray for those involved. As children share difficulties about school or with friends, share Bible verses that relate to their situation. If you can't remember any verses that apply, do some study at home and then share with your child at a later time.

## Mealtime

- Encourage influencers to identify at least one meal each week that will take place around the table at home. At this meal, the influencer could read a devotion from a devotion book or have a spiritual topic to discuss. Providing a dessert during this time might even make it easier for kids to listen.
- Introduce a fun discussion question at any mealtime and turn the discussion toward God. (What is one thing you would change about your day? Was it because of something you did? Can God use this event to teach you something? etc.)
- Although many families make this a habit at home, always pray for your food before eating even if you are in a restaurant or eating on the go in the car. This simple habit reminds our children that God is the provider of everything we have.

## Bedtime

- Most children will do anything to prolong bedtime. Use this to your advantage! Plan to read a Bible storybook or devotion to your children each night. You might need to schedule bedtime a little earlier to make this happen.
- Have a pajama praise party! Dance to some praise music before bed.

