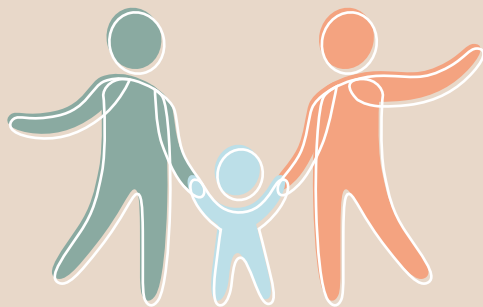


FAMILY FUN **CONVERSATIONS**



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Fun Family Conversations

Change the tone of your home by changing the conversation.

This front page describes the opportunities you have with four different daily routine times. The following pages give you ideas and questions for each time period. Print them out or save them to your phone and used without the sneaky instructions.

MORNING ROUTINE:

Most people (and especially most teenagers) aren't morning people, and we are often rushed. Before the hustle of the day comes, let's work on turning the tone from stress and rush to affirmation, acknowledgment, and mission.

DRIVE TIME:

Don't overlook how valuable drives are as a time of investment in your family. Your children don't have to argue and bicker. They don't have to have their earbuds in or heads buried in their devices. With a few leading questions, you can keep your kids engaged and often get surprisingly thoughtful answers out of them. Cars provide advantage for thoughtful conversation - your kids don't have to look you in the eye. This can help lower the stress level of sharing emotionally difficult topics. Don't lecture, don't be afraid of awkward pauses, and be prepared to be honest about your own life. Some questions and conversations work better in the morning, some later in the day. Some are fun, some are probing.

MEAL TIME:

There are few practices that have a greater affect on the healthy development of children than eating regular meals around the table as a family. This is a time that should be fun, drawn out, and encouraging. You'll be surprised how engaged your family will get with the right questions. Mix serious questions with silly ones. Make everyone turn off their devices. Take turns letting different family members pick the questions from the list. Try the family worship suggestion. Expect it to be messy. Don't think you're going to change the world in a single night. And don't give up just because one or two nights go poorly! You're committed to the long term transformation of your family!

BED TIME:

Bedtime routines help bring stability and closure to the day. As tempting as it is to just send the kids to bed and do your own thing, a consistent 5-10 minute investment of yourself into your children will form a deep impression in their minds and greatly increase their security and stability. You get to be the first person to influence their morning and the last person to impact their day.

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Morning Routine

AFFIRMATION

- I love you!
- I'm proud of you.
- I'm so glad you are my son/daughter.
- I prayed for you before you woke up this morning.
- I love how hard you work.
- It's a huge blessing to me that you take responsibility for
- _____.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Did you sleep well? Did you have any fun or strange dreams?
- Do you have anything coming up that you're excited about?
- Is there anything you're nervous or anxious about today?
- What do you think is going to be the best part of your day?
- If you could skip one thing today, what would it be?
- If we had a long relaxing breakfast somewhere today, where would you want to go? What would you get?
- Is there anything I could pray for you about today?

MISSION

- Who are you going to be around today who is going through a hard time?
- Who do you know that needs Jesus?
- What can you do to be a blessing to someone today?
- Review your Bible Verse for the week.
- Pray together before the family goes their separate ways.

Car Time

AFFIRMATION

- You look great today. I really like how _____ looks on you.
- Take a turn with each person in the car sharing what they like about each other person in the car.
- Take a turn with each person sharing one way they see each person in the car select the heart of Jesus.
- Think about something that each of you were really bad at in the past that you've improved.
- Affirm the work they've put in for an upcoming text, practice, event.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- If you could pull up to school in any kind of vehicle, what would it be?
- If we could be on a road trip to anywhere in the country right now, where would you want to go? Who would you want to bring with us?
- If you could pick the ideal start and stop time for school, when would you pick?
- Who is someone in your school you are struggling with. What do you think is going on in their life that could make them act the way they do?
- What's something you're looking forward to this weekend?
- What's something we could do together for a fun family date night?
- Which teacher in your school does the best job of making class interesting? How do they do it?
- Which teacher is most difficult for you? Why?
- Is there anyone you're anxious about seeing today?
- Who's someone that makes your day brighter at school?
- If you could have any restaurant take over your cafeteria, who would it be?
- Which subject seems the most pointless to learn?
- Who is the hardest person in your class to handle? Why is that?
- What's the funniest joke you've heard lately?
- What's the hardest thing about following Jesus in your school?
- When I pray for you today, what's one thing I can pray for?
- Who is someone you really admire in your school? Why?
- Car games:
 - how many different brands of cars are on the road?
 - how many animals can you see
 - I-spy
 - ABC game: find something outside of the car that starts with each letter of the alphabet
 - What's the strangest thing you can see out your window?

MISSION

- Pray for them as they are leaving your car.
- Which one of your friends is having the hardest time right now? Why?
- Sometimes we forget that teachers are actual people too. What's one encouraging thing you can say to one of your teachers today?
- Do you know the names of your custodians? If not, find out one today and thank them for cleaning up after all of the sloppy students!
- Is there a student who seems isolated or lonely in your classes or at lunch? Why do you think they are so isolated? How could you encourage or include them?
- Who is someone you could invite to church or share the gospel with?

Meal Time:

take turns with who gets to ask the questions

- What are your Roses and Thorns (highs and lows) for the day?
- What's the funniest thing that happened in your day?
- Who's someone you had fun hanging out with today?
- If you could have a redo of one part of your day, what would it be?
- If you could spend the afternoon with someone famous, who would you spend it with?
- If you could visit any place - real or imaginary - what would it be?
- If you could relive any time in your life, what would it be?
- If you could play any musical instrument with no practice, what would you pick?
- Describe your perfect day. What foods? What activities? What friends? Where?
- If someone gave you money to open a store, what kind of store would you open?
- What physical handicap do you think would be the hardest to deal with?
- What's the worst thing one of your friends has had to deal with on social media?
- If our house caught on fire and all of the people and pets were out safe, what is the ONE thing you would want to go in and save?
- Which one of your friends has the most challenging life? Why?
- If you could decorate your room to most express your personality, what would it look like?
- If you were King or Queen for one year, what are the rules you would make?
- What's the hardest thing you've ever had to apologize for?
- If you have a friend who asks you to keep a secret that's about something damaging or dangerous, what do you think you'll do? Has it happened?
- If your best friend told you something bad about your boyfriend or girlfriend, and your boyfriend/girlfriend denied it, whom would you believe?
- They say you start to become like the 5-7 people you spend the most time with. Who are those people in your life? How can you see you've become like them?
- Of all of the adults in your life, who is the wisest?
- Is there a friend or family you know that we could do something special for?
- Of all of the teachers you've ever had, who made the biggest difference?
- If you could ask God any question, what would it be?
- If you could meet anyone from the Bible, who would it be?
- What's one family you'd like to have over for dinner?
- How are Christians viewed in your school? What do you think is looked at as the best example of what a follower of Jesus should be in your school?
- If you could change one thing about church, what would it be?
- Family Worship - Read One Bible Passage. Ask: What does it say about God? About People? What warnings do you see? What promises? How can we pray for each other?

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Bed Time

- Get everything out and ready to make the morning easy:
 - clothes, including shoes and socks
 - backpack is packed and ready, everything is signed, homework is completed, lunch is made and ready to be put in the bag
- I love you
- I'm proud of you because of this _____
- Read together (favorite story, chapter of a book, section of the Bible)
- Pray together
- What are we going to thank God for?
- Is there anything for we need to ask forgiveness for?
- Is there any worry or anxiety we can give to Jesus?
- Who do we know that needs prayer?
- Who do we know who is serving Jesus somewhere who needs prayer?
- Hugs, kisses, affirmation through appropriate physical touch!
- Let "I love you" be the last thing you say to one another!