

FOLLOWING JESUS

Our families and whānau are very important, so it is good to talk together about what following Jesus means. Maybe your family goes to church, maybe you don't. Your family might believe different things between each other or to other people. Here are some top tips for talking together about what it means to follow Jesus.

TALKING TOGETHER

1

CREATE A SAFE SPACE:

Set some ground rules so everyone knows what the expectations are. These could be: each person in the family is invited to share their thoughts and feelings, while everyone else listens, no interruptions, no put downs, no criticism. You could set a time limit per person or at least read the room and know when to stop and move the conversation on.

2

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES:

It's great to hear from everyone. Encourage everyone to share their thoughts and ideas. Maybe one of the adults in your family is a follower of Jesus and can share what that means to them. Grandma might have great stories to tell!

3

IT'S OKAY TO PASS:

If you don't want to share, that's okay. Simply pass the conversation on to the next person.

4

FREE FOR ALL:

Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, there can be open space for conversation. Continue to listen carefully and ask questions without judgement. See some ideas below.

5

WHO CAN WE ASK?

Is there a question your family needs an answer to? Who could you ask? Is there a church near you or a friend that might be able to help you.



MAKE IT REGULAR

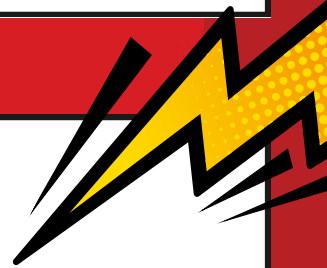
It's a good idea to have regular times to talk as a family. These are good times to talk about God and any questions you have. Mealtimes is often a good time to choose but pick a time that works for you. Maybe it's Sunday night over pizza!



BE PATIENT WITH EACH OTHER

There will be times when you disagree or need to go away and think about something some more.

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT- CONVERSATION STARTERS



Talk together about what following Jesus means to you. Let your child talk first about what they think, and other family members can share their ideas too. Here are some suggestions, choose what suits:

- What does it mean to you to be a follower of Jesus?
- Why did you make this choice? Why did you choose to follow Jesus?
- How can we help you follow Jesus? How can we help each other?
- I wonder what the Bible might say about this.

SOME FAMILY RESOURCES

- A simple method for reading your Bible: [SUNZ](#)
- Lectio 365 for Families: [A way to read the Bible together as a family](#)
- Tips for Parents: [Kitchen Table Project](#)
- Engage: [A Bible reading app for intermediates and young people](#). In English, Samoan and Manderin
- [More Bible reading ideas from Scripture Union NZ](#)