

Time to play!



Play and Pray

SESSION 4

Play Prompt

Bible inspiration: Psalm 100

Last week we had a think about what a psalm was. Do you remember? Yes it's a book in the bible with the words of songs or poems to God!

This week there is a psalm, number 100! It talks about shouting for joy to the Lord all the earth because of His love for us. To you ever want to shout for joy? I felt like that this week when the sunshine came out - hooray! Thank you Lord!

This week, I wonder if you could draw a picture of what it would look like if the whole earth shouted for joy! What does a tortoise look like if its shouting for joy? What would a crocodile look like if it was shouting for joy? What would a seagull look like if they were shouting for joy to God?!

So, can you draw a picture of creatures shouting for joy to God?

Give it a go!

Qs you could explore together

Tip: Don't use them all! Follow the natural flow of the play

What creatures has God made?

If they all shouted for joy at once what would it sounds like?

Do you think grass can shout?

What makes you want to shout for joy to the Lord?

Prayer for after or during play

Thank you God that you make me want to shout for joy! Thank you that you made creatures big and small. Thank you that one day the whole earth will shout your praises. Help us to remember to say thank you and to notice the things that make us joyful. Amen

Play & Pray: Notes for Parents

What is Play and Pray?

Play and pray is our series which uses God's gift of play to connect with our children and explore God together using toys! You can use any kind of toy really. There are two ways you can do it.

Option 1) is to watch the prompt video with your child and play together

Option 2) is to print out the session sheet, pop it wherever you keep your toys, and use it whenever you get a moment alone with your child - waiting for the dinner to cook, after a busy day at work or early in the morning when your mind isn't quite in gear. It works for anytime. All you need is a willingness to play, some toys and 10 minutes of your undivided attention.

Principles of Play and Pray

- **There is no wrong way to play!**

Let your child take this prompt in their own direction, remember that they might use this play opportunity and our undivided attention to bring up something that is worrying them or an idea they have been mulling over - that's fine. In fact it's great as we get to pray for the very things that are on the minds of our children. Praise God!

- **You can use any toys**

I'm using lego here but you can use anything really - playmobile, duplo, dolls, animals - even cars!

- **God's works through play too**

Take a second before you play with your child to commit the time to God. Some days your child might want to pray with you, other times they might be resistant. We don't need to force anything. We can ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in our play. I believe when we dedicate time to explore God through play that He speaks to us and our children. He is a God of play and He embraces when children come to him as children at play. This is a pressure free zone. It's a time to find joy in exploring God together.