

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME - FAMILIES WITH KIDS

BRIEF FAITH ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME.

FULL FREE LESSONS CAN BE FOUND ON VIBRANT FAITH CATALYST



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Starting School

School might look a little different this year, whether you are choosing to send a child to school or homeschool, starting a new grade (or starting school for the first time) is an exciting milestone for children and their families. As children prepare to begin a new routine, they'll hear Jesus' promise to be with them always - where ever they may be.

Together, the family will create a visual reminder of Jesus' great love for children.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Bible, school bag or backpack (or wall-space near where your child may do their school work), crayons or markers, Picture Frame Worksheet

PREPARE IN ADVANCE:

- Print out the Picture Frame Worksheet.
- Cut around the scroll to make the frame.
- Cut out the heart shape so you can attach a picture of your child to the back of the scroll and frame it with the heart shape.

PRAY: *Dear God, we thank you for _____ (child's name). Soon she will start school! Be with us as we hear from the Bible how much Jesus loves _____ (child's name). Amen.*

READ SCRIPTURE: Read to your child or invite them to read aloud from Mark 10:13-16.

After the story, teach your child the following hand gestures and tell this simple version of the story while acting it out:

- People were bringing their children to Jesus (move your arms like you're running).
- The disciples said: STOP! (put your hand out, palm forward).
- Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" (motion with your hand moving toward you).
- Jesus picked up the children, hugged them, put his hands on their heads, and blessed them (give your child a big hug).

Say: Jesus loves you just like Jesus loved the children in the Bible story. Jesus sends us love through the love of others. Point out his school work space or backpack.

Say: You can take Jesus' love with you, just like you take a bag or backpack, to school.

Move to a table or another area for a brief craft. Show your child the Picture Frame activity (already cut out).

Explain that you will take a picture on the first day of school that you can put in the frame and display in your home. Read the saying at the bottom: "Jesus loves you! Jesus is with you wherever you go!"

Invite the child to color or decorate the frame.

After you have a printed picture from the first day of school, attach it to the back of the frame, review the Bible story, and discuss how Jesus' love has been with your child throughout schooling.

Give your child a blessing. Have each member of the family take turns putting their hands on the child's head, as Jesus did in the Bible story. Say the blessing, "Remember, Jesus is with you wherever you go. Jesus loves you and so do I."

CLOSING PRAYER: *Dear God, be with _____ (child's name) on their first day of school. Be with their teacher _____ (teacher's name) and their friends. Give them all a great start to their school year together. Help _____ (child's name) to remember that Jesus loves them and to share that love with others wherever they go. Amen.*