

KIDS faith

Faith Conversations for Families

Tedye Schuehler

This journal
belongs to: _____

Given by: _____

Date: _____

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For more information on *KidsFaith* go to www.kidsfaith.net



Introducing **KIDS**faith

What is *KidsFaith*?

KidsFaith is an interactive journal designed to guide 10 faith conversations with kids. It provides step-by-step conversation tips for parents and leaders.

When to Use *KidsFaith*?

- › *KidsFaith* conversations can begin, pause, and continue as a child is interested and ready.
- › Church events (baptism, Lord's Supper, invitations for spiritual decisions, Bible study lessons, etc.) may trigger questions from your child. These can be natural springboards into faith conversations.
- › During times of change in the life of a child. Moving to a new city, school, or grade can spur questions. Family crises or holiday events may also prompt spiritual conversations.
- › In the course of everyday life as a child becomes aware of God and His love, *KidsFaith* provides opportunities to learn biblical truths. It also provides a place to record how these truths can guide a child's life.
- › *KidsFaith* is a great follow-up resource after Vacation Bible School, camps, retreats, or other times when children are building upon milestone spiritual experiences.

Where to Use *KidsFaith*?

- › **At Home:** Parents can use *KidsFaith* to begin, pause, and continue faith conversations with their children. Home is the optimal place to use *KidsFaith*.
- › **At Church:** Pastors and leaders may plan for a time to introduce *KidsFaith* to children and their families. In addition, adult leaders can use *KidsFaith* to guide spiritual conversations with small groups of children.
- › **On the Go:** Life can spark faith conversations most anywhere. Take advantage of every opportunity to have spiritual talks with your kids.

Why *KidsFaith*?

- › To encourage children as they begin their faith journey and learn about God's love.
- › To encourage and equip parents and leaders to begin faith conversations with children and their families.
- › To connect home and church.
- › To provide a means for kids to record and remember significant spiritual decisions.
- › To encourage everyone involved to learn about their own faith story.



How to Use **KIDS**faith

(Also see www.kidsfaith.net/tips)

God has given parents the awesome privilege and responsibility for the spiritual nurture of their children (see Deut. 6:4-9). Use this journal to guide conversations about God and His love. Here are some keys as you get ready to use *KidsFaith*:

1. Prepare a *KidsFaith* journal for yourself—complete the material for each conversation before talking with your child. As you share your story, it will encourage your children to think, write, and talk about their own stories.
2. To begin *KidsFaith*, show your journal to your child and offer them their own *KidsFaith* journal. If your child does not have their own Bible, provide one for them. Be sure it is an easy to read translation. (The NIV-1984 is used in the journal.)
3. Begin Conversation 1 and move to a new conversation as the child remains interested. Each conversation contains guidance and terms in child-friendly language, along with related Bible verses.
4. The left-hand page of each conversation in the journal contains four headings:
“Read and Think” = main idea; “Truths to Know” = key concepts; “Words to Understand” = key terms; and “Bible Verses.”
5. Use your Bible to look up the verses listed for each conversation. Help your child locate the verses in their Bible as well.
6. The right-hand page of each conversation contains two-three statements, fill-in-the-blank sentences, or short questions about key concepts based on biblical truths and each person’s story. Guide your child to complete each response activity.
7. “Adult/Child Conversation Helps” and information on “How to Write Your Story” are located on pages 44-46. **Stop and read these now.** “Step-by-Step Conversation Tips” are provided for Conversations 7A and 7B (pages 42-43)—be sure to look at these as you prepare for those conversations.
8. Plan to have conversations with few distractions. Begin, pause, and continue conversations as guided by the child’s interest.

Relax and trust God to guide this time with your child. Remember the Holy Spirit is in charge of helping each one of us, including your child, recognize our need for Jesus. Keep in mind it takes time for a child to put together the pieces about what it means to be a Christian. *KidsFaith* equips you to *begin*, *cultivate*, and *celebrate* each stage of your child’s spiritual growth.

Take a moment to pray now and ask God to guide you as you begin, pause, and continue spiritual conversations with your child...for the rest of your lives.

MEET THE WRITER

Tedye Schuehler

Tedye Schuehler loves children and has dedicated her life to serving them and their families. She is a proud graduate of Texas Tech University where she earned a B.S. in Home Economics Education. Tedye began her ministry at First Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, eventually serving as the Assistant Child Development Center Director. She went on to serve Indiana Avenue Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas; First Baptist Church in Allen, Texas; and First Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas; in the roles of Preschool and/or Children's Minister. In total, she has invested over 30 years in local church ministry. Tedye recently "retired" in order to serve her family and follow God's calling to new endeavors.

In addition to ministering to preschoolers and children, Tedye has provided training for adults in the areas of early childhood development, Bible Study leadership, and parenting. She delights in equipping and encouraging parents. She has also written preschool Bible Study curriculum for Baptistway Press®. During her last four years as a vocational minister, Tedye began developing and implementing the *KidsFaith* journal. The importance of each child's personal story of faith has been Tedye's passion and is the focus of this project. She is ecstatic about what the Lord has been doing through *KidsFaith*.

Tedye married Tim in 1980 and they have two grown children, Jenna and Bren. Jenna is married to Blaine and they have recently blessed the family with Blayne Pyper. Tim and Tedye love being grandparents! Bren recently completed his collegiate baseball career and lives in San Angelo, Texas. Tedye's favorite Scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

"Being a mom, grandmother, educator, and minister is my life's joy!" —Tedye

KIDSfaith

Dear *KidsFaith* Friend,

Your life is special to God. God loves you and wants to be your best friend. *KidsFaith* is a book about your life's story. It also tells about God's great love.

Do you have your own Bible? If so, be sure to grab your Bible when you use your *KidsFaith* journal. If not, ask your parent or a church leader for a Bible.

KidsFaith contains ten conversations that you can have with your family that will help you learn about God's love for you. There are also places for you to write things down about your life. Ask God to help you understand all that He wants you to know about His great love for you. Enjoy finding pictures of yourself and your family. Make this journal a scrapbook of memories filled with true stories about you and your life. Share your *KidsFaith* journal with your family and friends. You have a great story to tell!

Now turn to page 8 to start your *KidsFaith* journal.

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CONVERSATION

1

God

God is so in love
with you!

Words to Understand:

God—The all-knowing, ever-present, all-powerful Creator of the universe.

Creator—As Creator, God spoke the world into being.

Perfect—Correct in every way; flawless.

Heavenly Father—God protects us and provides for us.

Love—Unselfish, loyal, deep concern for others.

Bible Verses:

Genesis 1:1; Psalm 18:30;
Matthew 6:9; 1 John 4:16b

Read and Think:

- › Your life is special to God. God loves you and wants to be your best friend. Best friends know a lot about each other. What do you know about God?

Truths to Know:

- › God is the Creator.
- › God is pure and perfect.
- › God is Jesus' father.
- › God is my Heavenly Father.
- › God knows everything about me.
- › God loves me.

God

FIND the verses below in your Bible and **FILL IN THE BLANKS**.

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth."

Someone who creates is called a _____.

God is the _____ of everything.

Psalms 18:30

"As for God, his way is _____; the word of the Lord is flawless."

Matthew 6:9

"Our _____ in _____, hallowed be your name,"

1 John 4:16b

"_____ is love."

Things I know about God.

CHOOSE a vowel to complete each word below that describes something true about God. Vowels are A, E, I, O, and U.

CR__ _ T__ R

P__RF__CT

H__ _V__NLY F__TH__R

L__V__