

UPPER ELEMENTARY Parent Guide (3rd-5th)

August Parent Center Guide

WEEK OF AUGUST 2 - How do you face your struggles?

Memory Verse: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." — Ephesians 6:10–11 NIV

TALK ABOUT IT

- What was your favorite part of church last Sunday? What's one thing that stuck with you?
- How would you answer this week's big question — how do you actually face your struggles?
- What do you think life would look like if you tried to handle everything completely on your own, with no help from God or anyone else?
- God's truth, peace, faith, and salvation are compared to armor in the Bible. Which one of those feels most like something you actually need right now — and why?
- How does it feel to know God has already given you gear to fight with — you just have to put it on?

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask your child what they'd like to pray about this week. Try: "God, thank you for not leaving us to fight on our own. Help us remember to put on your armor — your truth, your peace, your faith — especially when things are hard. Amen."

WEEK OF AUGUST 9 - What's the Best News You've Ever Heard?

Memory Verse: "But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect." — 1 Peter 3:15 NIRV

TALK ABOUT IT

- What's the best news you've ever heard?
- Have you ever had to explain to someone why you believe what you believe? What was that like?
- Why do you think it's important to be gentle and respectful when you talk to people about Jesus?
- If a friend asked you why you follow Jesus, what would you say?

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask your student if they have anything on their heart to pray about. You could start with something like "God, help us be ready to share the hope we have in you."

WEEK OF AUGUST 16 - How Do You Face Your Struggles?

Memory Verse: "But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect." — 1 Peter 3:15 NIRV

TALK ABOUT IT

- How do you usually face your struggles?
- What's something God's helped you get through recently?
- Why do you think it can be hard to talk about the tough stuff you're facing?
- Who's someone you feel safe going to when things get hard?

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite your student to share a struggle they're facing, big or small, then pray for it together. Try: "God, help us face our struggles knowing you're with us."

WEEK OF AUGUST 23 - Would your friends say you live like Jesus? Why or why not?

Memory Verse: "But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect." — 1 Peter 3:15 NIRV

TALK ABOUT IT

- Would your friends say you live like Jesus? Why or why not?
- Do you think it matters more what you say or how you say it? Why?
- Who's someone you know who's good at saying the right thing in the right way?
- What's one way you could show Jesus through your actions this week, not just your words?

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask your student to think of one way they want to live more like Jesus this week, then pray for it together. Try: "God, help us live in a way that points people to you."

WEEK OF AUGUST 30 - How Do Your Friendships Help You Get Closer To God?

Memory Verse: "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!" — Matthew 5:43-44 NLT

TALK ABOUT IT

- How do your friendships help you get closer to God?
- Why do you think Jesus tells us to love and pray for our enemies, not just our friends?
- Is there someone who's hard for you to love right now? What would it look like to pray for them?
- What's one way a good friend has pointed you toward God?

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask your student if there's someone difficult in their life they could pray for this week — even someone they wouldn't normally think to pray for. Model it: "God, help us love people the way you do, even when it's hard."