

CROSSROADS STUDENTS

YOUVERSION READING PLAN:



SERIES OVERVIEW

In this four-week series, we're going to get honest about how difficult it can be to stay focused when we're trying to pray, read the Bible, or grow in our faith. Each week, we'll explore passages from Psalms and the Gospels as we challenge ourselves to focus on practicing four spiritual disciplines that can help us grow.

CURRENT SERIES



A Prayer For Lent

O Lord, we come to you, aware that we have busied ourselves and our family with full schedules brimming with places to go and people to see. But in doing so, we have forgotten you and your love and the mission you have breathed into our lives. We have chosen the way of instant gratification and of avoidance, choosing an abundance of distraction over a reliance on you.

O Lord, we come to you, unsure of how to best observe Lent. But even in our unsteady footing, we come to you, arms trembling with the weight we have taken on - weight that was never ours to hold. O Lord, we want more than this for our kids, and we thank you that it's never too late for us to reorient our hearts to you.

Our culture has beckoned us with shiny objects and faster internet speed, and we've grown accustomed to more instead of a daily repentance to - and reliance on - you. Help us know what to let go of and what holy habits to seek. Help us hunger and thirst for your kingdom. May we teach our children what it is to go without.

Illuminate the way, O Lord, for the paths are rocky and the sky is dark. Illuminate in us our need for your great light. And may you shine upon our family's faces so that our children follow your everlasting light, for you are the way. During this season of Lent, O Lord, we turn away from the ways of this world and the lies of the evil one. We put ourselves and our children into your hands and follow you, the one who leads from death to life. Amen.

PARENT RESOURCE

TikTok is the most popular social media app out there for young people. Scan the QR code to be taken to an article to learn about the ins and outs of TikTok. From practical skills of how to navigate the app to understanding the dangers that are present.



Connecting with Your Student

SAY YOU'RE SORRY

Yes, this one is for us as adults. We spend a lot of time trying to make sure our kids understand the importance of apologizing when they hurt someone, but this can be a tough pill to swallow when we are the ones who've messed up. If you want to build a bond with a kid where they see you as a real person who really does mess up, but is always seeking to do better, you can start by acknowledging your faults and simply saying you're sorry. You don't need to make excuses for yourself or make a big show out of the apology, just let your kid know that you value them enough to own up to it when you've messed up!

If you're feeling disconnected from your kid, maybe it's because there is unresolved tension or building frustration. It can be difficult to own up to any fault we might have in a conflict with a teenager (we're the parents after all), but a little humility and self-awareness can go a long way to showing your kid how much you love and respect them.

This month, make it a priority to apologize for anything you know you've messed up. And if you can't think of anything, don't be scared to ask your kid if there's anything they wish you'd apologize for. Or let's say your kid is the one who messed up — maybe they made a questionable (at best) decision, they broke a rule, or they might've hurt themselves or somebody else in the process. You already know what the punishment will be and it's a deserved consequence to their action. However, your teaching moment doesn't end with the consequences. Consequences may teach kids to fear making the wrong choice, but processing their decisions with someone who loves them can teach kids the skills to decide between right and wrong. Ask them questions like . . .

- Why do you think you are being punished?
- If you could do it over again, what would you have done differently?
- If you didn't get caught, what might have happened? Could someone have gotten hurt?

Each situation will involve different lines of questioning, but by choosing to engage a kid's mind you can help them to be more critical in their future thinking and more trusting that you are on their side!