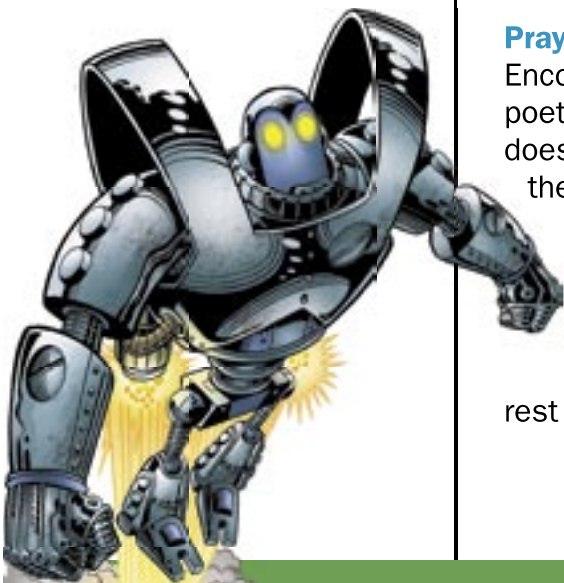


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Prayers don't have
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19



Friend to God!

Being a Christian is more than just good church attendance. It's about nurturing a relationship with God. In order to nurture that relationship, kids must understand the importance of disciplines like Bible reading and prayer. These are not things to check off a "to do" list. They are the fundamental ways kids get to know God.

Bible Reading

Bible reading can seem daunting to many of us; it's a really big book! But help your kids understand they don't have to start out by reading an entire chapter in one sitting. It's okay if they start out reading for five or ten minutes at a time. And if they miss a day, let them know they haven't failed in their quest for a great relationship with God.

Show them the Bible isn't boring. The Bible has wonderful and exciting stories. "Man Gets Swallowed by Whale and Lives to Tell the Tale!" or "Survival Tips While Spending Time with Hungry Lions."

Make sure your kids have a Bible they can understand. There are many great children's Bibles available. Encourage them to ask you or another grown-up when they have questions.

Prayer

Encourage your kids to actively pray. Prayers don't have to be long or poetic to be heard and answered. Prayer is simply talking to God. It doesn't have to be a formula. (But it's a good idea to help kids remember they need to be thankful for what God has done and is doing for them.)

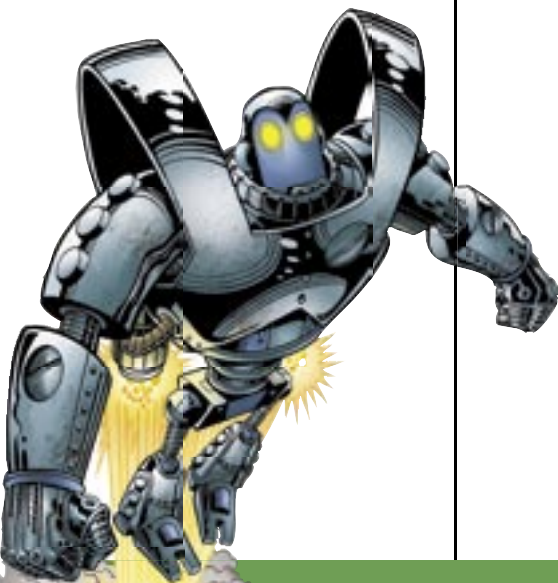
Be a model of prayer. Teach them how to pray by praying with them.

Help your kids develop good disciplines with prayer and Bible reading. It's not a chore—it's foundational to a relationship with God. One they'll have for the rest of their lives.



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

1. Jordan has come a long way since her experience during the flood. How has her relationship with God changed? How has her relationship with her friends changed? How has she changed? (*She reads her Bible more, she wants to please God, she doesn't want to be dishonest, she is reaching out to people who don't know Jesus, etc.*)
2. People at school are treating Lucy badly because they believe Jake's lies. What would you do if you were Lucy? (*Answers may vary. Note: Often, there is a difference between what we should do and what we would do. Just because we follow God and try to do our best doesn't mean people won't spread rumors about us. Help kids understand that fighting back isn't the best solution, and sometimes silence is.*)
3. Jordan tells Tabby she won't preach at her while she's at her home. By not preaching, how is Jordan showing God's love is real to Tabby? (*By being a true friend, by letting her life be an example rather than just her words, etc.*)
4. We get to know our friends better by spending time with them. How does that relate to our relationship with God? What can you do to build your friendship with God?
5. Our time in prayer and Bible reading is a private matter, not to be shown off like a badge or medal. However, these things should naturally overlap other areas of our lives. (*People should know we're different.*) Does your relationship with God spill over into other areas of your life? If so, how? If not, why not?



Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

You will need:

Bibles (preferably children's Bibles)
Paper (lined or unlined)
Pencils, pens, and crayons

Getting kids to read their Bibles can often feel like a trip to the dentist. But it doesn't have to! Show kids the Bible isn't just a book of rules—it's full of great adventures!

Divide the class into groups of two or three. Give each group a story from the Bible. (See suggestions below.) Tell the class they need to tell their Bible story as it might be reported in a newspaper. Complete with pictures and eyewitness testimony!

Suggested Bible Stories:

Jonah and the Whale
Daniel and the Lion's Den
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the Fiery Furnace
Moses Parts the Red Sea
The Battle of Jericho
David and the Lion and the Bear
The Birth of Jesus
Jesus Feeds 5,000

