

Do you feel like we listen carefully when you're telling us about you?
How can we show you that we're listening?

What is your favorite thing to listen to (ie. music, nature, laughter...)?
What is your least favorite thing to listen to?

How good is our family at listening to each other? When is it easy to listen, and when is it hard? What does it look like and how do we feel when we really listen to each other?

Psalm 1

*When I listen to you, God,
when I do what you ask me to,
I am like a tree
planted by a river,
a tree full of fruit
with leaves that are always green.*



LISTENING



God gave us so many wonderful and diverse things to love...name your favorite color, favorite animal, favorite season, favorite place, favorite fruit.

What were our first words? What did we love when we were small (cars & trucks? trains? animals? flowers? music?). What were our favorite books?

Remember a place we've been together and what you thought was beautiful about that part of God's diverse creation. See if everyone can name someplace different – children go first, because usually adults have been to more places!

Psalm 8

*People are so small
next to you, God.
You put the stars and the moon
in the sky, and the birds in the air
above the cows and horses in the
fields, and the fish that swim in
the seas.
You created all the beauty
in the world!*



LANGUAGE



What is your favorite song/singer/group/type of music right now? What do you like about that music; is it mostly the lyrics (words), the percussion (drums and bass), the sound?

What were your favorite songs/bands/types of music when you were our age? Do you still like them, or do you listen to different kinds of music now?

Let's take turns being "DJ" for a dance party, or in the car. Everyone has to promise to listen without complaining to the others' choices, knowing that you'll get another turn to play a song you like soon.
(We can set some boundaries around explicit lyrics, but mostly we want to understand what each person in our family enjoys and why.)

Psalm 98

*Sing to God a brand-new song,
because God has done many
wonderful things.
Play a trumpet or a horn!
Join the rivers and mountains
in singing praise to God!*



MUSIC



Think of a time when you've had to wait for something exciting or joyous to happen. Why is waiting so hard? What are ways to help ourselves stay patient when we have to wait for what we want?

PATIENCE



Do you remember a time when you had to wait for something when you were our age? Is it harder to be patient when you're a child or when you're an adult? What do adults have to be patient for...can't they just do whatever they want when they want to?

COVID has been a long time of waiting. Waiting to be with our friends without masks or distancing, waiting for the vaccine. How can our family use prayer, and faith, to help us through this time? Is there something we can do to help others get through this waiting time?

Psalm 4

*God, when I'm in my bed at night,
I think about you.
And then I'm not scared of anything.
I can fall asleep
quietly and in peace.*



Do you think there is a right or a wrong way to pray? Do you think God hears our prayers if they are silent (just in our heads and hearts)? Can a song, or a drawing, or silent time be prayer?

PRAYER



When do you pray? What kinds of things do you pray for? How do you know if God hears your prayers?

When does our family pray together? Is there a prayer practice we could try taking up this year? There are apps with daily devotionals and prayers for families in the Book of Common Prayer. We could place a basket on a table, draw or write our prayers and put them in the basket, and then pray for them every night, or weekly.

Psalm 5

*From the time that I wake up, God,
I talk to you.
You listen to me
and protect me.
You know that I love you!*



What are five healthy foods you like to eat? What is inherent about healthy food that requires patience?

NUTRITION



Which healthy foods did you not like to eat when you were children? Did your parents make you eat them anyway?

What would we like to cook or bake together? Let's find some recipes we'd like to try for healthy meals, and maybe also something to bake for a treat.

Psalm 104

*I praise you God!
You are like a marvelous king who
wears beautiful, bright robes!
You make the water run in rivers,
and the animals come for a drink.
You make the plants grow,
and we have food to eat. You open
your hands and give us everything
we need.*



Think of a time when you felt close to and loved by the adults in our family and tell us what you remember about that time.



Tell us the stories of our early lives; our birth or adoption, the day you learned we were coming, the first time you held us, and more!

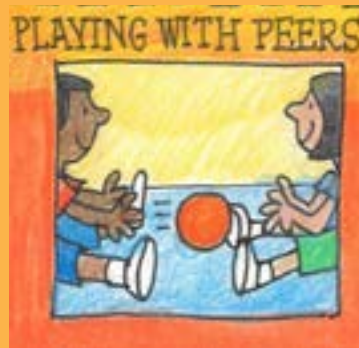
Just like God's love, the love between parents and children never ends. How do you think the ways we show each other love changes as the children in this family grow older, and become adults?

Psalm 136

*Thank you God,
you are so good!
Your love never ends.
Thank you God,
for making the sun!
Your love never ends.
Thank you God,
for the moon and the stars!
Your love is forever and ever.*



Who is your favorite friend to play with? Who in your class seems lonely, and may love to be invited to play?



Who were your best friends when you were our ages? What did you like to play together?

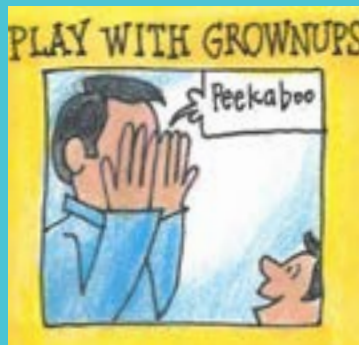
How has COVID and social distancing changed how we play with our friends? There is a lot we miss, but have there been new ways to connect that we feel good about?

Psalm 100

*God made us,
and we are God's people.
So we should sing
songs of happiness!
Let's celebrate God's goodness,
his love that will last forever!*



What is your favorite game to play with grownups? Tell about a time you remember playing that game and how it felt.



What is your favorite game to play with the children in your life? Tell a story of a time of play and laughter with children and how it made you feel.

What game would you like to play, all of us together? Let's make time for everyone's favorite this week!

Psalm 150

*Everyone sing praises to God!
Let's praise God with guitars, drums,
trumpets!
Or tap your feet and dance!
Hallelujah!*

