

## Dear Parents and Teachers,

When my guys were little, we would read bible stories together as part of our bed-time routine. I loved this time together! It was a time of total sweetness until... the dreaded questions would come. They would always wonder about how and why things happened a certain way. Why were there five smooth stones in the David and Goliath story? Did people boost Zacchaeus up into the tree or did he climb by himself? How did Adam name the animals? Was he in a hurry or did he play too?

Kids are so inquisitive!

Adam Names the Animals is an imaginary look at how Adam went about the business of naming the animals. We want to invite you and your children into faithfully imagining about God's stories. It's okay to wonder together. We believe that God smiles whenever we think about God and God's glorious creation all around us.

These teacher and parent pages are for you to use as a beginning for imaging, creating and praying in new ways with your child. Thank you for checking out Adam Names the Animals. May God bless us with curious minds, open hearts, and endless laughter as we open ourselves up to this wondrous world God has given us.

God's Peace, Love, and Blessings,

Beth+

## PRAYER

Prayer is our way of spending time with God. Teaching our children to pray is a vital part of their faith development. Some people, including children, are shy when it comes to praying out loud. They think their prayers need to be fancy or

perfect before they can be spoken. We believe that God wants us to share our earnest thoughts and prayers. The following activities are to help all of us get more comfortable praying out loud with wonder and joy.

### **Prayer Activity #1: A Prayer of Thanks**

Before you begin, remind each other that prayer is a conversation we have with God. Sometimes we simply say what is on our mind and other times we have a plan. Today, our plan is to offer prayers of thanks to God.

After reading Adam Names the Animals, work your way through the book and point to each animal and thank God for them. You can say, *Thank you God for the Koala. Amen.* You can also add your own thoughts about them too. For example, *Thank you God for rabbits. They are so fluffy and cute. Amen.*

Once you are finished going through the book, offer one last prayer thanking God for your time together.

### **Prayer Activity #2: A Prayer of Intercession**

Before you begin, say, we are going to have a conversation with God. Sometimes when we have a conversation, we ask for things. Today we are going to ask for things for our favorite animals. When we ask God for things it is called an intercessory prayer or our intercessions. This is a fancy way of saying we are asking God to help someone or something we love.

You can go through the book and pick out your favorite animals and ask God to help, bless, or guide them. For example, *Dear God, please help all the koalas in the world. Keep them safe. Amen.* You can also pick animals that you don't see in the book. How many animals did you name?

Once you are finished with your intercessory prayers, thank God for your time together and for all the animals in the world.

### **Prayer Activity #3: A Walking Prayer**

Before you begin, say, not every prayer is said out loud. Sometimes we pray

quietly or silently to ourselves. When we go for walks in nature, this is a time of quiet prayer with God. When we go for walks and see trees, flowers, bugs, and animals, we can feel thankful for all these things and quietly, in our minds, thank God for all the wonderful things we see.

Being quiet is hard for some of us. Let's time our prayer. Set your timer/phone for one minute and walk around your yard, the park, or your street (on the sidewalk of course) to take in the beautiful sites.

After your minute is up, ask one another what you noticed and gave God thanks for during this time. Try this activity again and see if you can increase your time.

Once you are finished with your prayer time, thank God for the time to listen and be quiet. Thank God for your time together.

#### **Prayer Activity #4: Imaginative Prayer**

Before you begin, remind each other that prayer is a conversation between you and God. God is your friend and wants to hear all about your thoughts and feelings. We have our special way of talking to God either silently or out loud. Let's imagine together what the animals are praying to God and let's pray for them today through our imaginations.

Go through the book and pick out an animal and wonder what it would pray to God. Guess each animal prayer by saying something like, *Dear God, the bird is flying so high. It is thanking you for the sky. Amen.* Or *Dear God, the frog is singing. It is thanking you for this lovely day. Amen.*

When you are finished imagining the animals prayers, thank God for the gift of wondering, the gift of laughter and the gift of all the animals in the world.