



Play and Pray

SESSION 1

Play Prompt

Bible inspiration: John 12:20-33

In John's gospel the bible tells us that Jesus predicted (that means knew before it happened) that he would die **AND** come back to life! **AND** that all people could come to know God's love for them through this. Wow! Can you imagine having that mission? Thankfully God doesn't usually give missions that are so extreme! But he does give us missions. My children are big paw patrol fans, so they are keen on missions.

Hmmmmmm what mission might God send you on? Lets use our toys to imagine....

Time to play!

Qs you could explore together

Tip: Don't use them all! Follow the natural flow of the play

How do we know if something is God's mission?

What makes something a mission?

What people do you know who have a mission from God?

Does everyone have a mission?

Prayer for after or during play

Thank you God that you give us missions from you. Thank you that you made me, love me and want our family to bring your love to the world. Help us to live out missions that show your love to the world around us. Amen.

Play & Pray: Notes for Parents

What is Play and Pray?

Play and pray is our series which uses God's gift of play to connect with our children and explore God together using toys! You can use any kind of toy really. There are two ways you can do it.

Option 1) is to watch the prompt video with your child and play together

Option 2) is to print out the session sheet, pop it wherever you keep your toys, and use it whenever you get a moment alone with your child - waiting for the dinner to cook, after a busy day at work or early in the morning when your mind isn't quite in gear. It works for anytime. All you need is a willingness to play, some toys and 10 minutes of your undivided attention.

Principles of Play and Pray

- **There is no wrong way to play!**

Let your child take this prompt in their own direction, remember that they might use this play opportunity and our undivided attention to bring up something that is worrying them or an idea they have been mulling over - that's fine. In fact it's great as we get to pray for the very things that are on the minds of our children. Praise God!

- **You can use any toys**

I'm using lego here but you can use anything really - playmobile, duplo, dolls, animals - even cars!

- **God's works through play too**

Take a second before you play with your child to commit the time to God. Some days your child might want to pray with you, other times they might be resistant. We don't need to force anything. We can ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in our play. I believe when we dedicate time to explore God through play that He speaks to us and our children. He is a God of play and He embraces when children come to him as children at play. This is a pressure free zone. It's a time to find joy in exploring God together.