

GO DEEPER

SPECIAL WORDS

DISCIPLES TRUST GOD
 (POINT UP)
EVEN WHEN HARD THINGS HAPPEN
 (STOMP FEET)

MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me." **Luke 9:23 (NLT)**

DAILY DEVOTIONS

DAY 1: TRUST GOD

READ - Psalm 37:23-24, Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust is when we believe that someone will do what they say, and you know they won't try to hurt you. Let's play a game of trust. Go ahead and close your eyes. *Once your child's eyes are closed, give them a few basic directions such as take three steps forward, hop one time, etc. After a few directions have your child open his/her eyes.* You did such a great job trusting me when your eyes were closed! God wants us to trust and obey Him too. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

DAY 2: STEPHEN'S EXAMPLE

READ - Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-57

Play a sit/stand game. Call out things and if it is something your child is afraid of, they should sit and hide their face, if it is something they are not afraid of, they should stand in a super hero pose. (Ex: dogs, snakes, thunder...) Stephen had to go through some really hard things. He could have run away or tried to hide, but he didn't. He kept following Jesus because he trusted God. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

DAY 3: STEPHEN TALKED ABOUT JESUS

READ- Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 118:6

Stephen was filled with the Spirit and the love of his Savior, so he just had to share about Jesus. What's some good news about Jesus you can share with others? When can you tell people about Jesus? Anytime! Even when hard things happen, Jesus is good! Let's practice saying good things about Jesus. *Use a bouncy ball to bounce back and forth. Every time someone bounces the ball they should say something good about Jesus. Such as "Jesus loves everyone," or "Jesus can do anything."* **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

DAY 4: GOD IS WITH YOU

READ - John 14:27, John 16:33

Did you know God is always with you? When you are having a good day or a sad day, a happy day or a mad day, God wants you to trust Him. Is anything bigger than God? No! Is anything stronger than God? No! Is anything smarter than God? No! Isn't it amazing that God, who knows everything and is stronger than everything, is always with you! So no matter what kind of day you are having, you can always trust God. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

DAY 5: LOVING OTHERS WHEN ITS HARD

READ - Acts 7:54-60

Stephen showed love by sharing about Jesus and he also forgave the people who were really mean to him. People sometimes do mean things to each other. When someone does something mean to you, it can make you so angry that you might even want to hurt them back. But God wants us to forgive others. When we forgive others we are showing that we trust God. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**



TRUST EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE

Materials: none

Plan a family trust walk. Pick a leader, and blindfold everyone else in your family. Follow your leader through the house and outside if the weather is nice. Take turns leading the walk. When everyone's had a turn, tell each other how you felt as you walked blindfolded. Have each person share one reason why he or she trusted each member of the family.

When we are having a hard time we can trust God. Even if we can't see where He is leading, we know that God is trustworthy and we can follow His directions!



ALL THE TIME

Materials: paper, markers, scissors

Think about a time something hard has happened in your life. Did you remember God was with you? If so, how did that help you? If not, how does knowing He was with you help you now as you think back on that time?

Use craft supplies to create a paper watch to remind you that you can trust God all the time. Even when hard things happen. Use markers to decorate your watch. Somewhere on your watch, write, "I can trust God all the time!"

Is there something hard in your life right now? Ask God to help you trust Him all the time. On days that feel easy and on days that seem hard!



CUDDLE CLOSE

Materials: None

Before bed pull your child close beside you and say, "I can trust God even when hard things happen." As you tuck them into bed sing, "I Trust in Him" (www.tinyurl.com/ITrustinHim). Then pray together, pausing after each phrase, to let your child repeat after you:

*Dear God,
Sometimes hard things will happen,
help me to trust You when they do.
Thank You for loving me..
In Jesus' name, Amen.*