

WTTW Podcast 4 Kids Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

When is the best time to help my kids meet with God in the Secret Place?

The time you set aside to help your kids meet with God in the Secret Place depends on your family's season and schedule. For some families, the morning time before school or church before getting into the day's activities is the best time. For other families, the time after dinner right before bed works better. Pray and ask the Lord to show you the time that works best for your family's season and schedule.

How do I structure time in the Secret Place with my kids?

The structure for time in the Secret Place will depend on the age of your kids. However, generally speaking, the following schedule has helped several parents in structuring this time. Keep in mind that you as a parent will guide your kids through each of these elements.

- **READ (~10 minutes):** The child reads the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs daily reading. If the child is not reading yet, the daily reading is read to the child.
- **LISTEN (~10 minutes):** With a Bible and the *Kids Daily Life Journal* ready, the child listens to the *Walking Through the Word Podcast 4 Kids*.
- **DRAW & WRITE (~10 minutes):** The child draws and journals what they remember from the daily reading and podcast. If the child is not writing yet, the child draws and the parent writes something for the child based on what the child remembers from the daily reading and podcast. The child then shares with a parent what he or she has drawn and journaled.
- **PRAY (~5 minutes):** The child closes the time with prayer.
- **SHARE:** Depending on when the Secret Place time is scheduled (morning or evening), set aside time when the family is together for the child to share with the family what he or she learned, drew and journaled in the Secret Place.

For younger kids, the Secret Place time will end up being approximately 20-25 minutes. For older kids, the Secret Place will end up being approximately 30-35 minutes. It's very important that the time-allotments are sustainable for the child and the family. The time in the Secret Place should be something the child and family can consistently and enjoyably sustain.

Note that the time and location of these elements may shift periodically depending on your family's schedule. The goal is to establish a consistent time in the Secret Place for your kids each day.

Should I plan to be present during the entirety of my child's time in the Secret Place?

As you guide your child into and through the Secret Place, your presence with them will depend on their age and needs. Ideally, the child would at least do the drawing and journaling on his or her own. Eventually, the goal is that the child can do the daily reading, listen to the podcast, draw and journal and pray on their own before coming and sharing what they learned with a parent. For younger kids, the parent will likely be involved in most of, if not all of, the Secret Place time. As the child matures and becomes acclimated to the Secret Place, the child will be able to do more on his or her own. It is recommended that a parent at least listen to the podcast with the child so the parent can provide guidance on how to rightly respond to the daily reading and the podcast content for that day.

How "deep" should I expect my child's insights to be in the Secret Place?

The primary goal of the Secret Place is consistency. As a parent, you are helping to develop a conviction in your child about meeting with God every day in the Secret Place. An analogy to consider would be teaching children to clean and clothe themselves. Over time and with consistency, a child gets better at showering, brushing teeth, choosing outfits, tying shoes and styling hair. The initial goal is that the child develops habits of being sanitary, healthy and presentable. In a similar way, we are trying to help a child develop the habit of meeting with God each day in the Secret Place. As the child continues to develop, his or her journaling, praying and points of application will develop and deepen as well.

What if I miss a day helping my kids meet with God in the Secret Place?

It's okay! Travel, sickness, crises and/or full schedules can make it difficult on certain days to help your child meet with God in the Secret Place. If you miss one day, you can simply skip the day you missed and pick up the reading and podcast the next day, or you can catch up on the reading and podcast you missed on the next day as time allows. If you miss several days (for example, due to a family emergency or illness), it's usually best to skip those days of reading and podcasts and simply pick it up with the current day's reading and podcast once you're back into your normal routine.

How do I help my child engage the Secret Place if they express disinterest?

There are a couple of helpful things to keep in mind if your child expresses disinterest in meeting with God in the Secret Place. First, consider the difference between what your child *wants* to do and what they *need* to do. Most children have certain school subjects, home

responsibilities and other duties they don't *want* to do that we know they *need* to do in order to develop into healthy adults. Learning to meet with God each day in the Secret Place is something a child *needs* to do—perhaps as much or more than anything else. We must help our kids embrace God's empowering grace for the Secret Place. Second, we find that most children who are consistent with the steps outlined above in the Secret Place end up craving it. Perhaps at first, it will be challenging for the child. In time, with consistency, he or she will develop an affinity and endurance for the Secret Place.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any further questions, please feel free to email them to info@newsongnashville.com and one of our Pastoral Team members will respond.