



WHEN KIDS ASK...



“Will I be taken care of?”

Why kids might ask:

When someone dies, that person is not only unable to fulfill relational needs but physical and material needs as well. Especially if the person who died was a caregiver, kids may have questions about how their needs will be met in that person's absence. As they get older, they become more aware that parents and other caregivers make money or complete tasks that are necessary for them to have what they need, and for their lives to feel normal. Kids may also overhear things as others talk about the practical details around a death. They may hear concerns about funeral or burial expenses, life insurance, or loss of income that person used to provide. They could also be unsure about how much money is necessary for daily life, or what will happen if they have fewer resources than they used to have.

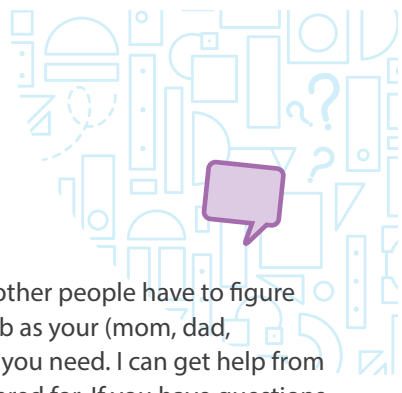


...➤ What the Bible says:



The Bible tells us that God has more than enough to care for our needs and our family's needs. God is a loving Father who enjoys giving good gifts to His children. The Bible reminds us that we do not need to live in constant worry about what we will eat or drink or wear. If God feeds birds, even though they don't store up supplies, and if He makes the flowers grow beautifully, then we can trust God to take care of us who are much more valuable to God. God understands what we need even before we ask. When we feel worried, afraid, or overwhelmed, His Spirit is with us in those moments. And when we pray or cry out for help, we can trust that God hears us and is able to provide.

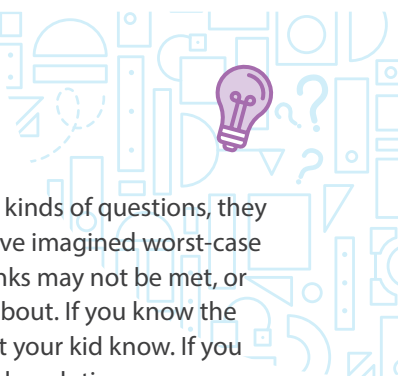
God often meets our needs through other people. The Bible encourages us to share with those who are need so that no one feels alone or forgotten. In church communities, God can use caring people to offer practical help, encouragement, or support. That way, anyone who has a need in the body of Christ can have their needs met, both practically and emotionally. Sometimes God places it on someone's heart to offer help at just the right time. We can remind our kids that it is okay to ask for help and that helping others is part of following Jesus. God invites us to treat others the way we would want to be treated so that we have a community where everyone has the care that is needed.



...➤ What you could discuss:

With preschool ages: “When someone dies, other people have to figure out how to do the jobs that person did. My job as your (mom, dad, guardian) is to make sure that you have what you need. I can get help from other people to be sure that you are always cared for. If you have questions, it’s okay to ask what will happen now. God knows what we need, and God and His people will help take care of us.”

With school ages: “When someone dies, we have to make changes to be sure things that they did still get done. Part of my job as your (mom, dad, guardian) is to be sure that you have what you need, even though a lot of things have changed. I might be doing different jobs than I used to do, and I can get help from other people as well. You might be hearing things about money or other things we need that feel scary. You can always ask me about how we are going to figure these things out, and you don’t have to try to solve those problems. God knows what we need, and how our needs have changed since our person died. God can help us, and can also use His people to meet our needs.”



...➤ What you could do:

Talk about the worries: When kids ask these kinds of questions, they are often worried about a specific need, or have imagined worst-case scenarios. Talk about what needs your kid thinks may not be met, or what they have overheard or are concerned about. If you know the answers to how you can meet these needs, let your kid know. If you don’t, talk about the steps you can take to find a solution.

List the helpers: Who in your life has already been helpful since your person’s death? What have others done to provide, financially, emotionally, or in other ways? Talking about how needs have already been met or promised can be reassuring, and give concrete ways for your kid to understand that others can help.

Pray for provision: Talk with your kid about what needs you see that might not be met yet. Spend time praying together about what you and your family need, and thank God for the ways He has already provided and will provide in the future.

...➤ Where you could look for more information:

✕ **Stories that describe God providing for the needs of people:**

Genesis 16, 21, 24, 28 • Exodus 16 and 17 • 1 Kings 17 • 2 Kings 4 and 7 • 2 Chronicles 32 • Nehemiah 9 • Job 42 • Matthew 14 and 17 • Acts 4 • Revelation 19

✕ **Passages where God promises to meet needs:** Deuteronomy 8 •

Psalms 23, 34, 37 • Isaiah 41, 58 • Jeremiah 29 • Matthew 6 • Luke 12 • Philippians 4 • 2 Corinthians 9 • Revelation 2 and 3

✕ **Poems expressing gratitude for needs being met:** Genesis

24 • Deuteronomy 32 • Psalm 65, 103, 107, 111, 136 • Proverbs 3 • Ecclesiastes 3 and 5 • Lamentations 3 • Habakkuk 3 • Romans 1 and 7 • 2 Corinthians 9 • Ephesians 1 • Philippians 1 and 4 • Colossians 1 and 3 • 1 Thessalonians 2 • Revelation 4, 5, 7, 11, 15, 19

✕ **Encouragement for God's people to meet the needs of others:**

Deuteronomy 15 • Proverbs 19 • Isaiah 58 • Matthew 25 • Acts 2 • James 2 • 1 John 3

