

## RHYTHMS & RESPONSES

### Authentic Faith

This year you will **provoke discovery** so your child will trust God's character and experience God's family.

As your third grader gains more independence, this is a great year to encourage personal devotional time. Help them develop a habit of spending time alone with God.

But, don't let their faith become private; continue having other faith conversations as you go about your days together.

### Say things like...

"Don't ever tire of doing the right thing."  
2 Thessalonians 3:13

Repeat and memorize simple Bible verses together.

I'm not sure where that passage is. Let's look it up together.

When I first trusted Jesus...

Share your faith story.

### Parent Cue Times



#### Morning Time

Be a coach. Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.



#### Drive Time

Be a friend. Interpret life during informal conversations as you travel.



#### Meal Time

Be a teacher. Establish values with intentional conversations while you eat together.



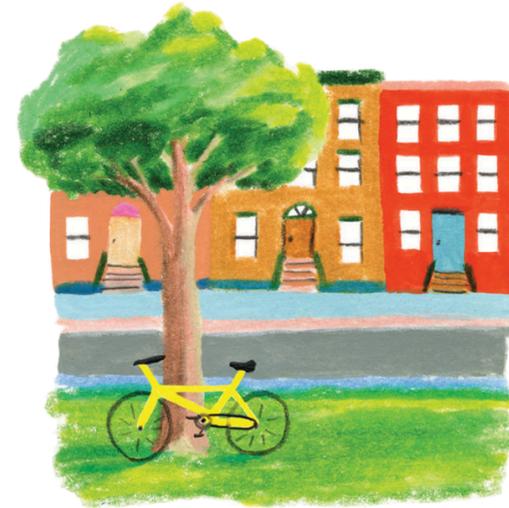
#### Bed Time

Be a counselor. Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.

## PHASE SUMMARY

# Third Grade

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The phase when fairness matters most, differences get noticed, and your enthusiastic kid thinks anything, **"Sounds like fun!"**

**Fairness matters.**

The world of your third grader is highly defined. Things are right or they are wrong. Someone is either good, or they are bad. And if you happen to give someone else the larger slice—you will find out pretty quickly to which category you belong.

**Differences display their uniqueness.**

Your third grader’s brain is changing in some incredible ways. They are developing their ability to empathize, but they are still quick to put people (including themselves) into categories. They may be quick to let you know, for example, if they are “athletic” or “not athletic.”

**This phase is a blend of capable and dependent.**

You are still in the golden age of childhood. No one should have a favorite phase, but if you like this phase a whole lot, you aren’t alone. Your kid is impressionable, enthusiastic, and excited about what you are excited about. If you think something sounds like fun, it won’t take much to convince them it really is fun. (That may not be as easy in a few years.)

**It’s just a phase,  
so don’t miss it.**



OVERVIEW

# In the Third Grade phase, your role is to engage their interests.

Your third grader is keen for comparison. They love to compare movies, sports teams, ice cream flavors... and people. This tendency often leaves kids wondering just how they measure up. The way you answer their questions, listen to their stories, and show up consistently will help you encourage their efforts.



**Elementary schoolers think like a scientist.**

You help them learn when you... give them concrete

examples.



**Elementary schoolers want to know, “Do I have what it takes?”**

You capture their heart when you...

encourage their efforts.



**Elementary schoolers are motivated by fun.**

You coach them when you... play on their level.