FAMILY CONVERSATIONS · ZION TRYIN SERIES · GRADES K–3

Zion Tryin... To Stand His Ground

A read-aloud talk guide for families



Zion loves his bright “I Am” shirt, until a boy named Marcus starts teasing him at recess, day after day. Zion doesn't fight and doesn't run. He talks to Mom and Dad, learns where the words “I Am” come from, and stands his ground.

Use this book to talk about teasing, telling a grown-up, and knowing who God made you to be.

How to use this guide

Pick two or three questions. You don't have to use them all. Ask, then listen, and let your child finish their thought before you share yours. Share your own stories too. Kids open up when parents open up first. And come back to it: the best talks often happen days later.

Before reading

- Look at the cover. What do you think the words “I Am” mean?
- Do you have a favorite shirt or something you love to wear? Why is it special?

Picture talk while reading

Pages	Look and ask
4–6	How does Zion feel in the morning and at school? How can you tell?
7–9	Look at Zion's face and his hands. How is he feeling? What are the other kids doing?
10	Zion doesn't feel like a little scientist anymore. Why not?
11–13	Mom doesn't say anything right away. She just squeezes his hand. Why is that a good way to help?
16–18	Dad asks, “What do you think hitting him would fix?” What do you think?
19–21	Mom says “I Am” is what God called Himself. Dad says God made Zion, so he's already somebody. How does Zion feel after that?
23–25	Zion didn't fight and didn't run. What did he do instead?

After reading

- Why didn't anybody laugh the second time?
- Zion told Mom and Dad first. Who can you tell when someone is unkind to you?
- How do you think Marcus felt when he walked away?
- If you had your own “I Am” shirt, what would it say? (Try the Draw Yourself page in the back of the book.)

Practice it together

Take turns acting out the recess scene. The grown-up plays Marcus, kindly. Your child practices standing like Zion: shoulders back, hands open, eyes up, calm words. Then switch. Remind your child that standing your ground also means telling a grown-up, just like Zion did, especially if the teasing keeps happening or anyone gets hurt.

For grown-ups

Zion's mom listens to every word without interrupting or rushing him. Try that the next time your child brings you something hard. Ask, “Do you want to tell me what's going on inside that big brain of yours?” and then just listen.

Faith moment

Read **Exodus 3:14** together, where God calls Himself “I AM.” Ask: *“If God made you, who does that make you?”* Then pray the prayer on page 43 of the book together, or let your child say their own.

Read the book together. Get *Zion Tryin...To Stand His Ground* at navaentertainment.com