

Conversation Kit: Talking About Violence & Fear with Children



 **GLAD TIDINGS**
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

This guide helps parents have meaningful conversations with their children following tragic or violent incidents in schools. It combines practical emotional handling with biblical and spiritual guidance to bring comfort, safety, and faith.

Setting the Tone & Context

Choose a place where is quiet and away from any distractions. Begin by gently introducing the topic and allowing your child to express their feelings.

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Opening Line: *“You may have heard about what happened at school or seen things online or from friends talking about it. I want to talk about it together. If there’s anything you don’t understand, feel confused about, or feel worried over, you can always ask me – we’ll work through it together.”*

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Encourage Open Sharing

Ask open questions to understand what your child knows and feels:

- “What did you hear about what happened?”
- “How does that make you feel inside?”
- “Are you afraid it could happen here?”
- “What do you think was going on in that child’s heart?”
- “What questions are you afraid to ask?”

Affirm their feelings: “That’s understandable,” “It’s okay to feel scared or sad.”

Biblical Truths to Share

- **God sees, God hears**– “Even when bad things happen, God is aware, He cares about every life.” (Psalm 34:18)
- **Sin and brokenness**– “We live in a fallen world; people make wrong choices, but God is still present.” (Romans 3:23; John 10:10)
- **Hope beyond darkness**– “One day God will make all things right.” (Isaiah 65:17)
- **Prayer changes things**– “We can ask God for comfort, healing, and safety.” (Philippians 4:6)

Practical & Emotional Support

Reassure them about school safety and discuss emergency procedures calmly. Encourage them to report unsafe behavior parents & teachers. Help them process emotions through journaling, prayer, or creative activities (drawing) Seek professional or pastoral help if fear persists.

Example Conversation [Use age-appropriate words]

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Parent: *“I know you heard about what happened at school/or what you saw online. That must be scary. Do you want to tell me what you saw or heard?”*

Child: *“I heard someone was stabbed.”*

Parent: *“Yes, that’s true. It’s very sad. But you’re safe here, and we’ll keep talking about how to stay safe.”*

Parent: *“It’s okay to have big feelings. God knows your heart. Let’s pray for the people affected.”*

Prayer: *“Father God, thank You that You are with us. We bring to You the pain, the fear, and the grief. We pray for healing and safety. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

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Tips for Parents

- Model calmness and honesty — your peace helps your child feel secure.
- Keep communication open — check in regularly, not just once.
- Pray together as a family for God’s protection and peace.
- Guard your own heart — talk to God or someone you trust if you feel overwhelmed.

Note to Parents: *These conversations may take time and may need to be revisited as your child processes new emotions or information. If you need further guidance, please reach out to us <https://gladtidings.my/contactus/>*