



LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

There's nothing more meaningful than helping your child understand what it means to follow Jesus. This gentle, practical guide is here to walk with you through those big conversations—how to recognize when your child might be ready, what to say, and how to lead them with love, truth, and grace. You don't have to have all the answers—just a willing heart. Let's walk this sacred journey together.



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Introduction Information

Important things to remember

- Start with prayer, be led by the Spirit
- It's ok to not know a answer
- This will likely be multiple conversations over time
- The enemy does not want your child to make Jesus their Savior
- It is ok for there to be silence, to give kids time to think, process and reflect before they answer. Don't rush a answer.

Responsible Evangelism with Kids

- Begin with Prayer
- Depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- This is NOT about checking a box or number of decisions
- Understand the emotional, mental, and spiritual development of a child
- Deal with each child individually
- Do NOT rush, push, incentivize, peer pressure, or scare a child into a decision
- Be conversational and use language a child can understand
- Help the child know the difference between becoming a Christian, being baptized, and joining the church
- Refrain from offering rewards
- NO mass altar calls (leads to peer pressure decisions)
- Recognize that children have short attention spans
- Use the Bible to show the way
- Use open ended (not leading) questions
- Whenever possible, involves the parents
- Follow through after a child decides to follow Christ = discipleship
- Remember it's ok if it is not the right time. Every conversation is steps toward God.

What does the Bible say about Kids | Matthew 18:1-14

- Childlike faith, trust, and dependence are required to become a Christian (vv. 3-4).
- To receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive Jesus Himself (v. 5).
- Children are important to Jesus (v. 5).
- We have an important responsibility to lead children in the right way (v. 6).
- We should not look down on a child (v. 10).
- God's will is for children to be saved (v. 14).

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Different Stages on the Journey

There is no set age for these steps. It is different for each child

- Discovery
 - Asking lots of questions, curious, inquisitive, "downloading" information
- Discerning
 - Starts to have concern & emotion toward spiritual topics.
 - Questions about death, Heaven and Hell
 - Start realizing faith personal for them
- Deciding
 - Conviction of sinfulness and a need for a Savior
 - Willing to make God Lord (or boss) of their life
 - Ready to make a decision
- Discipling
 - Ongoing teaching and growing of child's relationship with Christ

Remember your experience

- How old were you ?
- What do you remember?
- Who was involved?
- How do you feel about your experience?
- How has your relationship with Jesus changed over the years?

Key Understandings

- Sin - Anything we think, do or say that displeases God
 - They can tell you in their own words what sin is
 - Believe that they are a sinner - ask for them to give examples of their sins
 - Their sin separates them from God
 - Jesus died as a payment for sin
 - Grace is free we cannot earn it
- The Gospel (reference gospel visual drawing): Doesn't have to be perfect, but a good general understanding is key
 - God created a perfect sinless world (Adam & Eve)
 - Sin separated us from God
 - Humans tried to reconnect on our own
 - God sent Jesus who was sinless to die on the cross as payment for our sin
 - Jesus died & rose again
 - We get the Holy Spirit as a helper
 - Jesus is coming back

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Having the Conversation | Example Conversation

Establish the starting point & what lead to this moment

- "Why do you want to talk about becoming a christian?"
- "What does Jesus mean to you?"
- "What are you feeling?"
- Caution Flags to watch out for:
 - Just want to baptised - focused only on baptism not decision or salvation
 - So & So did it and were celebrated - they also want to be celebrated
 - Don't want to go to Hell - while valid, make sure this isn't the only reason and let them know that they don't have to make any decisions at that moment. It is ok to be scared about life after death, it is ok to have concerns.

What Salvation is and isnt

- "What makes you a Christian?"
 - Choosing to accept Jesus gift of Salvation, asking for forgiveness and making God Lord or Boss of our life.
- "Can you earn salvation?"
 - No, going to church, reading our Bible or even telling others about Jesus does not save us.
- "Can we stop being a Christian? Or mess up so bad that God un-saves us?"
 - No - God still forgives us even after we are saved
- "Is life easy once we are christian?"
 - No, life is still hard. We still have saddness, pain, hard choices and hard experiences. But we have the help and support of God through the Holy Spirit. We know that we are done on the earth we will spend forever with Jesus and things will be perfect then.

The gospel

- Walk through the gosple letting the child lead as much as possible prompting or helping only when needed.
- Reference visual gospel guide at the end of this handout
- Other good gospel explanation
 - Lifeway Kids - The Gospel God's Plan for me
 - Roman Road
 - 3 Circles

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Having the Conversation | Example Conversation

Giving them a chance to choose

- "We each have to choose for ourself to make Jesus our Savior. ____ & I cannot make that decision for you. What do we do to make a gift ours? We have to take it."
 - Put something in your hands and make them physically take it to show accepting a gift.
 - Explain that salvation is a free gift, we cannot earn it, we just have to accept it.
- "When we choose to follow Jesus and accept the gift we have to put our faith in Him, what is faith?"
 - Faith is trusting - "did you check that chair before you sat in it? Did you inspect if it all the screws were tight? Did you have faith that it would hold you?"
 - Faith can be hard. There will be times when we will question or struggle to have faith.
- "When we make the choice and choose to have faith we make God ruler or boss of our life"
 - "Think of the chair you are sitting in as your life. Right now, you are ruler of your life."
 - Crown the child, but a cape on, hand them a septon (this can all be pretend or use actual props)
 - "Before accepting Jesus as your savior you made all your decisions. Now, we have to hand that over to Jesus and let Him be boss of our life."
 - Have child stand up and place scepter in chair, take off the cape and place it in the chair, take off the crown and place it in the chair.
 - "Now that we have given all our "ruler" things to Jesus we worship him"
 - Have child kneel down to Jesus as Lord of their life. (If they are making this choice)
- Ask them if they are ready to do this for real.
 - If they say yes, then move forward with praying a prayer of salvation.
 - If they say no, or are not sure, then thats ok. Theyre still in the discovery or discerning phase and we call this steps toward God. Affirm that their choice is ok and then pray with them to continue to grow and learn more. Encourage them to tell you or another adult when they are ready.

A Prayer of Salvation

- ABC's
 - "Dear Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner and that my sin seperates me from you. I beleive that you died on the cross for my sins. I am choosing to follow you for the rest of my life and share my decision with others. Jesus please be the boss of my life and forgive me of my sins. Amen."

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Discipleship, Preventing & Navigating Doubt

Next Steps after Salvation

- Celebrate the decision made, share with others (family, friends, pastors, church leaders)
- Take steps for setting up baptism (see baptism counseling guide for baptism counseling)
 - Salvation happens at the moment of prayer & choice, NOT baptism. Baptism is a symbol and telling others of a inward decision.
- Help the child set up a plan to grow closer to God
 - Prayer
 - Scripture/Devotional
 - Attending church or other discipleship events
 - Sharing Jesus with others
- Remember that salvation is not the finish line - there is great responsibility in discipling once a decision has been made.

Preventing & Navigating Doubt

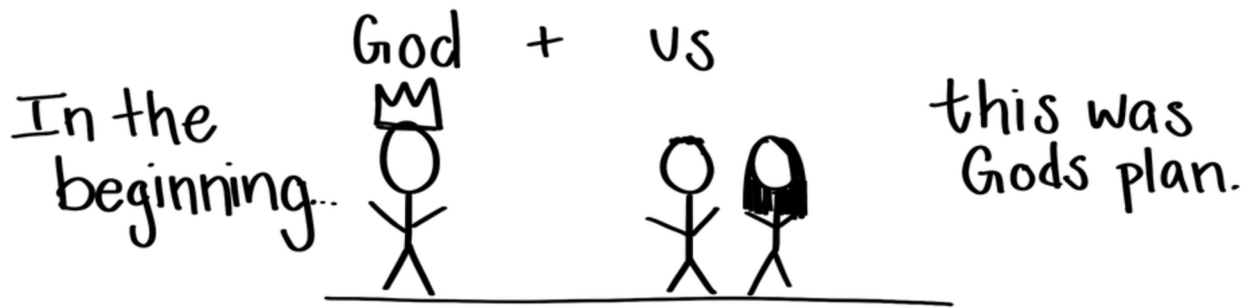
- Only God & the child know the state of their relationship - trust the leading of the spirit
- It is common for a kid to doubt their decision they made at a young age - tell them this. Tell them the devil will try to use this in the future.
- At the point of decision ask them "With everything you know in you ____ year old head and heart, do you Believe that Jesus is your savior and died for you sins?"
- Have them write in their Bible "I, _____ with everything I know in my ____ year old head and ____ year old heart believe that Jesus is my Savior and died for me. I know I will still mess up and learn more. Today on _____ (date) I choose accept Jesus as my Savior and make him boss of my life." Have them sign it, and anyone else involved sign it. Take a picture or copy to store in a safe place. Film them saying that and save it.
- Each year on their salvation anniversary celebrate with a special treat and talk about what happened on that date and the ways they have grown in their relationship with Jesus
- When a time of doubt comes, it is ok to walk your child through a time of recommitment or commitment to do better.
 - It is very common for even us as adults to have conviction and points of recommitment, there is nothing wrong with our kids doing the same thing as they learn and grow. Salvation is for the mind of child, its simple. Our relationship and understanding will grow throughout our earthly and eternal life.

For further discussion or questions fill out the contact form at theabidingfamily.org

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Visual Gospel



Old Testament

God Sent Jesus who was sinless to die for us.



We can choose to accept Jesus as our savior