

How to talk to your child about following Jesus






Here is a guide for talking with a child on the topic of choosing to become a Christian. If you have any questions, contact Marcy at 254-644-6892.

Here is the gospel message in a nutshell-

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.

- **GOD RULES.**
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything.
Read Revelation 4:11.
- **WE SINNED.**
Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.
- **GOD PROVIDED.**
Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve.
Read John 3:16.
- **JESUS GIVES.**
Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- **WE RESPOND.**
Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

When a child starts the conversation

The Point – we want the child (or adult) to understand what it means to be a Christ Follower

Instead of starting with Jesus' death on the cross, I like to start at the very beginning.

- God made the world and God made people to have a special relationship with Him.
- Because of sin, that caused a problem in our relationship with God.
- Jesus came to show us how to live and to take the punishment for our sin.
- Because of what Jesus did we can be forgiven and have a right relationship with God.
- This relationship is not just about going to heaven when we die, this is about living to follow Jesus every day.
- To accept God's gift one must
 - Admit that he/she is a sinner
 - Believe that Jesus died on the cross for us and that his death paid the penalty for our sins
 - Commit his/her life to follow Jesus as Lord - to continue learning from Jesus and following Him as long as we live!

Model Discussion – here are some questions and conversation starters you can use as you talk with your child

God's Plan

- "God loves you and has a great plan for your life," Psalm 139:13-16
- "Tell me one thing that is special about the way God made you."
- "Why does a person need to become a Christian?"

The Problem of Sin

- "Tell me about Adam and Eve."
- "We have all sinned," Rom 3:23 (a child understand he/she is a sinner, but also that everyone sins, including his/her parents and teachers)
- "What is sin?" Have child name a sin. You want to discover if the child understands some examples of sins. Often they say things like stealing, lying, and disobeying parents.
- "Sin is choosing to do things our way, not God's way."
- "Sin is doing something you know you are not supposed to do, or not doing something you know you are supposed to do."
- "Have you ever sinned?" (note – it is critical for a person to understand that he/she is a sinner. If a person is not there yet he/she is probably not ready to make this decision.)
- "How does God feel when we sin?"
- "Sin makes us separate from God and hurts our relationship with other people."
- "Even though we choose to sin, God still loves us and offers to forgive us," Rom 5:8.

What Jesus did

- "Jesus died for us", John 3:16
- "Tell me what you know about Jesus."
- "Why did Jesus have to die?"

- “What happened after Jesus’ death?”
- “Jesus had to be punished for our sins so we would not have to be away from God forever.

Becoming a Christian

- “Do you know how to become a Christian?”
- A – Admit to God you are a sinner
- B – Believe that Jesus died for you
- C - Commit your life to Jesus, to let him be your Lord. This is the beginning of a new way of life, of following Jesus every day.

What is next?

An older child who has heard the gospel presentation many times before and has a good understanding may be ready to make this decision now. A younger child who is just hearing the gospel for the first time may not be ready. In John 6:44 Jesus said, “For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me.” If a child is asking questions, I believe the Holy Spirit is at work. But that does not mean the child is ready to make this decision.

If you are not sure, that is normal! We are glad to help answer your questions!