

Introducing Your Child To Christ

The fact you're reading this indicates you are concerned about your child's faith. As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. It's likely that you are reading this because, like many parents, you don't know quite how (or when) to go about introducing your child to Christ. Parents who worry that they don't have the training or understanding to lead their children to salvation may be tempted to just leave it to the "professionals"—to rely on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to influencing your child's path to salvation. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the when and how of introducing them to Christ.

STEP ONE: Lay a foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is not a one-stop process. Your goal as a parent is not to simply have your child pray a prayer. The goal is to introduce your child to a life in relationship with our living savior. This relationship begins as your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation (hearing the stories of the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth) as well as experiencing life in your home (watching your example, feeling your love, learning right from wrong, seeing your ongoing relationship with Jesus). These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. We see it in Deuteronomy: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Dt. 6:6-7).

STEP TWO: Discern readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure they are ready and can truly understand a relationship with Christ.

When you feel they are ready to begin their relationship with Jesus, ask a few questions to help gauge your child's level of understanding. The goal of your conversation should be to determine if they understand the implications of following Jesus with their whole heart. Part of the process will be to help them understand that sin causes people to separate themselves from God's presence. Therefore, we want to help them understand that salvation is about them turning to God in response to His loving pursuit of them through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Read John 1:12-13: "But to all who believed Him [Jesus] and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." Then ask questions like, "What would it mean to believe in Jesus?" "What would it mean to be reborn?" "What would it mean to become a child of God?"

STEP THREE: Guide your child in prayer for salvation

Romans 10 tells us, "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Romans 10:9-10). If you sense your child has a desire to welcome Jesus as their savior and Lord, then you can guide your child to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it's best to prompt them to use their own words—to tell God they understand that He loves them and wants to be in relationship with them, to say they are sorry for their sins, to ask for His forgiveness, and to ask Him to be Lord over the rest of their life.

STEP FOUR: Prepare them for baptism

Once your child has understood and decided to accept God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, it is time to guide them toward following Christ in believer's baptism. Schedule a time to meet with their children's pastor or attend the next water baptism meeting.

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- G** – God created us to be with Him
- O** – Our sin separates us from God
- S** – Sin cannot be removed by good deeds
- P** – Paying the price for sin Jesus died and rose again
- E** – Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life
- L** – Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever

GOING FURTHER – Church Support

Faith Path: Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ

This kit is available for download or pick-up from the campus HomePointe Center. It includes a training video and other tools to help you gain confidence as you lead your child to faith. Go to lakepointe.org/faithpath

Book “My Heart - Christ’s Home” by Robert Boyd Munger is available through Portview Kid’s staff.

