

C|KIDS Salvation

A Guide for Family Conversations



*Helping Kids Discover
and Follow Jesus*

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Talking with your child about following Jesus

As a parent or guardian, you have an incredible opportunity to help your child discover who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him.

Sometimes kids begin asking big questions about God, sin, forgiveness, heaven, baptism, or what it means to “become a Christian.” You don't have to have all the perfect answers. This guide is designed to help you have a simple, honest conversation and listen for what your child is beginning to understand.

The goal isn't to get your child to repeat the right words.



The goal is to help them understand the good news of Jesus and choose for themselves to trust and follow Him.

The Big God Story

You might begin by saying:

God made us, loves us, and created us to live in relationship with Him.

God wants us to know Him, trust Him, and learn to live His way. But all of us have chosen our own way instead.

That's what the Bible calls **sin**.

*"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."
Romans 3:23*

What is Sin?

Keep it simple:

Sin is turning away from God and choosing to do things our own way instead of His way.

Sin can look like selfishness, dishonesty, hurting others, or choosing what we want instead of what God says is good.

But sin is more than breaking rules. **Sin separates us from the life and closeness with God we were created for.**

Ask your child:

- What do you think sin means?
- Can you think of ways people choose their own way instead of God's way?
- Do you think everyone sins?
- What happens to our relationship with God when we choose our own way?

You aren't looking for perfect answers. You're listening to see what your child understands.



The Big God Story

God's Rescue Plan

The good news is that God didn't leave us separated from Him.

God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and bring us back to Him.

Jesus lived the life we couldn't live. He showed us exactly what God is like and what life in God's Kingdom looks like.

Jesus died on the cross for our sin, taking upon Himself what our sin deserved.

And Jesus didn't stay dead.

God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is alive, Jesus is Lord, and because of Him we can be forgiven of sin and have new life with God.

Ask your child:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus came?
- What happened when Jesus died on the cross?
- What happened after Jesus died?
- What does Jesus' death and resurrection mean for us?

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16



The Big God Story

What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus?

Becoming a Christian isn't just knowing things about Jesus.

A Christian is a follower of Jesus.

A follower of Jesus trusts Him, learns who He is, learns His ways, and chooses to live with Jesus as Lord.

Jesus invites us to turn away from living life our own way and begin learning to live His way.

The Bible calls this **repentance**.

Repentance means **turning around**—turning away from sin and toward Jesus.

We aren't saved because we're good enough, behave perfectly, or know all the answers.

We are saved by God's grace when we put our faith in Jesus.

*“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.” **Ephesians 2:8***

What is grace?

Grace is God's forever love that He freely gives us.

Grace means God gives us His love, forgiveness, and new life not because we earned it, **but because of who He is.**

We don't have to work hard enough to make God love us or become good enough to be saved. **Grace is God's gift to us through Jesus.**

And following Jesus doesn't end with one decision. It begins a whole new life of learning to trust Him.

God gives us the Holy Spirit to be with us, help us, teach us, and form the character of Jesus in us.

Ask your child:

- What do you think it means to follow Jesus?
- Do you believe Jesus died and rose again?
- Do you trust Jesus to forgive you and make you new?
- Do you want Jesus to be the leader of your life?
- Do you want to learn to live His way instead of only your own way?

Is My Child Ready?

There isn't a magic age when a child becomes ready to follow Jesus.

Instead, listen for **understanding and personal desire**.

Your child doesn't need to understand everything about the Bible or explain salvation like an adult.

But they should begin to understand:

- God loves me.
- I have sinned and need God's forgiveness.
- Jesus died and rose again to rescue me from sin.
- I can trust Jesus because of what He has done for me.
- I want to follow Jesus and learn to live His way.

Most importantly, the desire should belong to your child.

They aren't making this choice because their sibling did, because their friends did, or because they think it's what an adult wants them to say.

They're beginning to choose Jesus for themselves.



Helping Your Child Respond to Jesus

If your child understands the good news and wants to follow Jesus, you can help them talk to God.

There aren't magic words they have to say.

Prayer itself doesn't save us—**Jesus saves us**. Prayer is simply one way we can express our trust in Him.

Encourage your child to use their own words.

They might say something like:

“Jesus, I believe You love me. I know I've sinned and gone my own way. Thank You for dying for me and rising again. Please forgive me. I trust You, and I want to follow You and learn to live Your way. Thank You for giving me new life and for being with me. Amen.”

Celebrate this moment—but remind your child:



**Following
Jesus is
more than
a moment.
It's the
beginning
of a life
with Him.**

What's Next?

This is Not a Solo Journey!

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey, and your child doesn't have to do it alone.

We grow as followers of Jesus by spending time with Him and learning His ways.

Talk With God

Prayer doesn't have to sound fancy. Encourage your child to talk honestly with God about what they're thankful for, what they're worried about, what they need help with, and what they're learning.

Learn the Bible

The Bible helps us discover who God is, understand the ways of Jesus, and learn how to live as His followers.

Consider choosing a kid-friendly Bible and reading it together.

Keep Showing Up

Following Jesus happens in community.

Continue gathering with Cityline Kids, building friendships, asking questions, worshiping, praying, and learning about Jesus together.

Talk About Baptism

When someone chooses to follow Jesus, baptism is an important next step.

Baptism is an external expression of the reality that we have chosen to follow Jesus. Going under the water and coming back up identifies us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

If your child is interested in baptism, use our **Cityline Kids Baptism Guide** to continue the conversation together.

What If My Child Isn't Ready?

If They're Not Ready Yet, That's Okay!

There is no pressure and there is no need to rush.

A child asking questions about Jesus is already an opportunity worth celebrating.

Keep talking. Keep listening. Keep reading Scripture together. Keep praying. Keep making room for questions—even difficult ones.

You can continue pointing your child toward Jesus and trust that God is at work in their life.

Our desire at Cityline Kids is to partner with you as you help your child **discover and follow Jesus**.



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

We're here to walk alongside your family every step of the way.

