

THE GREATEST DECISION

Taking the Next Steps After
My Child Accepts Christ

The Greatest Decision: Taking the Next Steps After My Child Accepts Christ
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OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR
A FREE VIDEO RESOURCE ABOUT TAKING
THESE NEXT STEPS.**



INTRODUCTION: WELCOME HOME

Heaven is rejoicing! A chorus of angels erupted in praise when Jesus saved your child. Take a moment and praise God for His work in your child. Your child decided to follow Christ. There is no greater decision!

Now what?

This short guide will help you with what to do next.

The following eleven steps will give you practical ways to encourage your child in the faith. But first, I want you to understand the importance of Jesus' salvation.

A lot of people treat their spiritual lives like a house renovation. You may think, "I need a little work, but I'll do a room at a time." The problem is your spiritual home is condemned. It's unlivable. Your soul does not need a renovation. You need a transformation. All of us need an entirely new home!

An eternal chasm exists between God and us because of our sins. We can't get to God on our own. Jesus is the way we get to God. He forgives our sins through His sacrifice on the cross. His resurrection guarantees eternal life. Jesus offers salvation through a free gift of grace.

Salvation begins with God, but you have a responsibility to choose Christ. God offers us a new home in His kingdom through His Son, Jesus. When Jesus gives *life*, as described in John 3:16, the word refers to more than our mere physical existence. The *life* Jesus gives is eternal and perfect.

**"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**

I have good news to share: You are loved. Jesus loves you. He loves your child. And He wants you in the Father's kingdom for eternity.

Does God have room for you? Absolutely! You and anyone else who wants to live with Him!

Jesus said in John 14, "There is more than enough room in my Father's home."

Welcome home.

Now let's take those next steps with your child.

**"THERE IS JOY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S ANGELS WHEN EVEN ONE SINNER REPENTS."
LUKE 15:10**

STEP 1: CELEBRATE WITH GUSTO!

Your child made the greatest decision to follow Christ. Have a party!

**FOR “EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE
SAVED.” ROMANS 10:13**

If heaven rejoices with every salvation, we should as well. So invite your family and friends and make a big deal about your child’s decision.

As you celebrate, point back to Christ. Make sure everyone knows this party is about what Jesus has done. Gather everyone for a celebratory prayer and praise God for the Holy Spirit’s work in your child. No one comes to faith apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. Tell everyone this celebration is more about Jesus than anything else.

STEP 2: PURCHASE A BIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD

**ALL SCRIPTURE IS
INSPIRED BY GOD AND
IS USEFUL TO TEACH
US WHAT IS TRUE AND
TO MAKE US REALIZE
WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR
LIVES. IT CORRECTS US
WHEN WE ARE WRONG
AND TEACHES US TO DO
WHAT IS RIGHT.
1 TIMOTHY 3:16.**

God's Word is one of the greatest gifts you can give someone. Commemorate this wonderful occasion by giving your child a new Bible. There are many age-appropriate Bibles, and I recommend the New Living Translation.

You can look at [several options in the Church Answers bookstore.](#)

STEP 3: MARK THE DATE

The process of salvation can unfold over time. Sometimes this process can take years, even decades. But everyone who is saved will make a decision at a specific point in time. I wish my parents had marked the day of my salvation, or at least the month and year. Jesus saved me when I was seven or eight, and I remember some of the details. I wish I had the specific date recorded.

**INDEED, THE “RIGHT TIME” IS NOW. TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION.
2 CORINTHIANS 6:2**

If you can't remember the date of your salvation, don't worry. You're still saved. But there is something special about marking the date. You can bless your child by recording the date of their salvation. Go to a favorite verse in a special Bible and write the month and year. If you know the exact day, even better. If you keep a digital calendar, make this day a reoccurring event every year. When you reach this day each year, tell your child how much it means to you. You may keep this tradition going into adulthood!

STEP 4: RECORD A VIDEO OF YOUR CHILD'S TESTIMONY

Please don't skip this step. I believe it's one of the more essential things you can do. Take your phone (or a camera) and record a video of your child sharing his or her testimony of how God saved them.

**FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED
OF THIS GOOD NEWS
ABOUT CHRIST.
ROMANS 1:16**

The video will help you remember the best details of this glorious moment. You will cherish hearing your child proclaim faith for years to come. Even more so, this video will help your child remember the greatest decision they ever made. We all go through seasons of doubt, especially when we enter our young adult years. You may find this recording helpful when your grown child will deal with inevitable doubts and questions we all have about our faith.

STEP 5: RECORD YOUR REACTION AS A FUTURE ENCOURAGEMENT

After you record your child's testimony of faith, give your testimony. Give your perspective and speak words of truth and love. When your child gets older, share this video as future encouragement. You may start a generational tradition of handing down video testimonies of salvation.

LET EACH GENERATION TELL ITS CHILDREN OF YOUR MIGHTY ACTS; LET THEM PROCLAIM YOUR POWER. PSALM 145:4

STEP 6: WRITE A HANDWRITTEN LETTER TO YOUR CHILD

Handwritten notes are rare. Electronic communication has all but erased the whimsy of cursive writing. The average adult writes something by hand about every 41 days. The average home receives a personal letter in the mail every seven weeks.

AT THE LORD'S DIRECTION, MOSES KEPT A WRITTEN RECORD OF THEIR PROGRESS. NUMBERS 33:2

While the video in step four will help your child see your gestures and facial feature, the handwritten note is a true keepsake. Even if you have sloppy penmanship, there is beauty to handwritten notes. The slant and curves of letters give a glimpse into your personality. There is a vulnerable beauty to writing something by hand and giving it to someone.

Consider giving your child this letter on their eighteenth birthday or some other occasion marking a transition to adulthood.

STEP 7: COMMIT TO A CHURCH

**AND LET US NOT
NEGLECT OUR MEETING
TOGETHER, AS SOME
PEOPLE DO, BUT
ENCOURAGE ONE
ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY
NOW THAT THE DAY OF
HIS RETURN IS DRAWING
NEAR. HEBREWS 10:25**

Frankly, you cannot equip your child in the faith without help. Everyone needs a church.

Church membership is nothing like a country club, where you pay your dues and receive a service. Instead, church membership is a commitment to be part of God's community through the body of Christ. To be part (a member) of the body (the church), you must commit to a local church. The term "local" refers to a specific location with a particular people. The term "body" represents how there are no lone-ranger Christians. Those who have faith in Christ are meant to be connected to a larger group of believers through the church.

Christ committed to the church. We should commit to Him. As Paul writes in Ephesians 5:25-27, Jesus is the Groom, and we are the bride. The New Testament does not teach "just me, Jesus, and no one else" but rather a connection to a local church.

You and your child need your church, and your church needs you. In the book of Philippians, Paul highlights the concept of giving and receiving. Paul gave them support through the gospel, while the church supported his work. We are called to minister to others, but there will be times when we need others to minister to us. This sense of community only comes through the local church.

STEP 8: SEEK PASTORAL GUIDANCE

Make an appointment with your pastor or someone you trust in church leadership. Your church leaders will likely be able to help with the next steps. In many churches, baptism by immersion will be expected. For example, my church has a baptism class and programming recommendations for families. Our student ministry also has a process to help young people who have recently accepted Christ. Ask your church leaders about the best way to disciple your child.

OBEY YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS, AND DO WHAT THEY SAY. THEIR WORK IS TO WATCH OVER YOUR SOULS, AND THEY ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD. GIVE THEM REASON TO DO THIS WITH JOY AND NOT WITH SORROW. THAT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE FOR YOUR BENEFIT. HEBREWS 13:17

Nothing gets me excited like a parent letting me know their child accepted Christ. Honor your pastor and other church leaders by telling them you would like to meet with them to celebrate your child's decision. Find some godly leaders in the church to come alongside you to help encourage and strengthen your child's faith.

STEP 9: START A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL PLAN

You should study God's Word with your child. I recommend having family devotionals each week. Pick a time that works for you. For example, if you are often home together Saturday mornings, then dedicate fifteen minutes on Saturdays for a family devotional.

If you don't know much about the Bible, then select a devotional guide to help you. For children, *The Jesus Storybook Bible* is an excellent resource. Your time together can be as simple as reading this resource like you would any other children's book.

**YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO GUIDE MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH.
PSALM 119:105**

STEP 10: STICK TO THE RIGHT PRIORITIES

I don't want to alarm you, but Satan does not like it when Jesus saves people. One of Satan's greatest tactics is to use good things to distract you from the top priority. I am a big sports fan, particularly baseball. For the most part, sports are good and can be a lot of fun. However, when sports—or anything else—take precedence over God, your heart moves away from the most important priorities.

WE DO THIS BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE CHAMPION WHO INITIATES AND PERFECTS OUR FAITH. HEBREWS 12:2

Good things can become the idols we worship. And we justify them because they are good things. If what is at the center of your heart is anything other than Jesus, it is an idol. Every idol will eventually fail you. If it's between you and God, give it up. Demonstrate to your child what faithfulness looks like. Help your child understand how to choose proper priorities. God is completely reliable, totally committed, and perfectly trustworthy. Believe in His promises because they never fail.

STEP 11: PRAY EVERYDAY WITH YOUR CHILD

You should not only pray *for* your child but also *with* your child. Dedicate five to ten minutes each day to pray with your child. Perhaps you pray right before school drop-off time. Maybe bedtime is best. Whatever works for you, daily prayer with your child is critical to spiritual development.

NEVER STOP PRAYING. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Prayer is a challenging spiritual discipline. The concept is not hard to understand. You communicate with God and listen to Him. Prayer is difficult not in concept but in practice. There is no instant gratification with prayer. You do not have a message read feature or push notification for prayer as you do with phones.

Is prayer really that important? Yes, it is! Prayer is our direct communication with the God of the universe. In my experience as a pastor, church members pray, but it is more during times of convenience or crisis. Unfortunately, prayer happens when people have the time or when their world starts to crumble.

Think of prayer as a strategy for life. Prayer is a way to discern the daily tactics for living that enable you to thrive spiritually. Prayer is not passive resignation. It's not a last resort!

"Nothing else worked, so I guess I'll pray" is one of the weakest ways to talk to the sovereign Creator of the universe. God is in control, so you should talk to Him in a way that recognizes His power. A powerful prayer rests in God's sovereignty and trusts in His grace. This trusting and resting is the very definition of prayer. It is not our prayers that overcome. It is God who overcomes, and we pray to Him.

CONCLUSION: CHILDREN OF GOD

Family is God's idea, and all believers are adopted into His home. There is not one of us more deserving to be part of God's family than another person. Everyone sins. Everyone is separated from God. Everyone is outside the family. The fall of humanity created a world full of spiritual orphans. By His grace, God is adopting us back into the family through the work of our Savior, Jesus.

GOD DECIDED IN ADVANCE TO ADOPT US INTO HIS OWN FAMILY BY BRINGING US TO HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. THIS IS WHAT HE WANTED TO DO, AND IT GAVE HIM GREAT PLEASURE.

EPHESIANS 1:5

God designed the home and the family unit. Not every home looks the same, but God wants to use them all for His glory.

Your child is now a child of God.

Congratulations!