

TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT SALVATION

KEY POINTS TO TALKING TO A CHILD ABOUT SALVATION

Ask follow-up questions

When a child asks a question, often they do not know exactly what to ask. Understand what they are asking before deciding how to answer a question. For example, you might say, “Tell me about what you are thinking,” “What made you ask that question,” or “Where did you hear about this?” Remember, many times the question a child asks may not be the actual question for which he is needing an answer. Avoid asking questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no.”

Avoid too much information

Adults can be tempted to tell all they know on a subject. When a child asks a question, only answer what the child is asking. If a child asks for more information, be more specific with your answers.

Don't jump to conclusions

A child may ask, “Why did Rebecca get baptized?” This question may be only a request for information, not a request for the gospel presentation.

Speak clearly

Avoid symbolic analogies that may distract from discussion and understanding.

Use understandable words

For example, rather than using the phrase “accepting Jesus into your heart,” say the words “becoming a Christian.”

6 STEPS FOR GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1

God loves you and has a great plan for you!

PSALM 139:13-16

Talk about these truths: God made the world, God made people, God made you, God wants to have a relationship with people, and God wants to have a relationship with you. Say, "Tell me one way you know God loves you."

2

We have all sinned

ROMANS 3:23

Everyone must understand that he or she is separated from God. Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our way instead of God's way (have your child name some examples of sin such as disobedience, lying, fighting, stealing, etc.)

3

We deserve to be punished for our sins

ROMANS 6:23

Explain that a "wage" is what we deserve for doing something. A parent performs a job and earns money or a wage. The wages of sin is death. Let them know that death refers to separation from God. We will all die, but we can not be with God in Heaven if we have sin in our life. The topic of Hell will often come up in this discussion. Do not shy away from the topic of Hell. It is a real place where some people will spend eternity. However, don't go so far that your child is scared into salvation.

4

Even though we choose sin, God still loves us and offers to forgive us

ROMANS 5:8

Ask, "How do you think it makes God feel when you sin?" Focus on the fact that God loves the child even when they sin. Make sure that they understand that God knows about every sin that they commit. Say: "God promised that one day a Savior would come and not sin and would die for all people. Do you know who that Savior is? Did you know that He died for you?"

5

Jesus died for us

JOHN 3:16

Tell about John 3:16 and explain that because sin separates people from God, everyone needs a Savior. Ask, "Do you know why Jesus died?" Reply, "Jesus loved you so much. He willingly died for you, so you could be with God forever." If the child is old enough to understand the resurrection, say, "Jesus rose from the dead, so we could have eternal life."

6

You can become a Christian by confessing that Jesus is your Savior and Lord

ROMANS 10:9

Ask, "Would you like to be a Christian and start living for Jesus today?" State that the word confess means to say that Jesus is your Savior and that you must:

- **Admit** you have sinned
- **Believe** that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave
- **Commit** your life to living for Jesus Christ

FOLLOW-UP

Salvation is only the beginning

After your child has accepted Jesus into their heart, remember that their walk with Jesus is just beginning! Whether your child is ready to take another next step like baptism, or talk more about Jesus, remember that discipling is a life-long process. We as parents are called to disciple them (Deuteronomy 6)! Talk with your child about Find, Tell, Bring and how this ties in with the great commission (Matthew 28:16-20).