

LIFEPPOINT KIDS

**Parent Resource:
Discussing Salvation**

Tips for Witnessing to your Children:

- 1. Speak with each child individually. Children are unique and their signs of conviction are unique as well.**
- 2. Use terminology that your child can understand. Remember children are literal thinkers. Avoid symbolic language.**
- 3. Be conversational. Always ask questions that require more than a “yes” or “no” response. Encourage your children to express their own ideas.**
- 4. Answer questions honestly and leave the door open for further questions.**
- 5. Only answer questions the child asks. Allow children to be curious without assuming they are under conviction.**
- 6. Don't rush your child. Wait for the child to indicate interest before making an effort to talk with the child about conversion.**
- 7. Use the Bible and rely on it. (Admit, Believe, Confess)**
- 8. Avoid giving rewards. Children desire to please adults and receive gifts.**
- 9. Trust God to do His work. In His perfect timing the Holy Spirit will draw children to Jesus.**

ABCs of Becoming a Christian:

Becoming a Christian is the most important decision anyone can ever make. What does the Bible say about becoming a Christian?

- God loves you. **“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16**
- Sin is choosing your way instead of God’s way. **Sin separates people from God. Sin separates you from God. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23**
- God sent Jesus so you would not have to die for your sin. **Jesus died on the cross. He was buried and He rose from the dead. “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!” Romans 5:8**

How to Become a Christian

A Admit

Admit to God that you are a sinner.

The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey. (Romans 3:23)

Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9)

B Believe

Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and accept God’s gift of forgiveness from sin. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Eph. 2:8-9)

C Confess

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

The Child and Salvation: Signs of Accountability.

1. A child must understand the meaning of sin. A child must understand the concept of sin, not just the word itself. Sin is not just an action; it is a conscious choice to do wrong. Sin is choosing our way instead of God's way. It is living to please ourselves and not living to please God. Because of this attitude, we do things that do not please God. These are called sins.

A child must understand that sin is a deliberate choice to disobey God.

2. A child must realize he has sinned. A child can understand what sin is but still not believe he is a sinner. A child's response to questions will help determine if he understands this concept.

Even if a child understands what sin is and that he is a sinner, he must also understand the next two things to be ready to receive Christ.

3. A child must realize that he has sinned against God. Until a certain age, a child will determine right and wrong on the basis of pain and pleasure. It must be right if it feels good and people approve of his doing it. If he is punished or hurt when he does it, it must be wrong. But a child does not have a real understanding of right and wrong.

When the Holy Spirit convicts a child, he understands that his sin is wrong. He has an understanding that his sin is not wrong just because his parents say it is wrong. It is wrong because he has deliberately chosen to do what he wanted to do instead of what God wanted him to do.

4. A child must understand that he is separated from God because of his sin. A child may understand he has sinned against God but not understand that he is separated from God because of his sin. He may understand the fact but not the consequences or the seriousness of his sin. Like an adult, a child must repent. He must be sorry enough for his sin to turn from it and decide to live his life to please Jesus. If he does not understand that he is separated from God now, he cannot do this.

A child may also understand that if he died he would be separated from God in hell, but he may not understand why. He may not make the connection between God's judgment and his sin. He may believe he would go to hell because God is mean and would send him there.

One must be careful not to lead a child to a commitment he does not understand. Leading a child to a premature decision is like giving him a vaccination. When vaccinated, he is given just enough of the bacteria to keep him from getting the real disease. Leading a child to a premature decision gives him just enough of an experience that it may prevent him from having a genuine conversion experience when the time is right.

Ask questions and listen carefully to the answers until you feel comfortable about the child's level of understanding. If you feel that the child does not understand the four things discussed in this article be confident that God will continue to mature the child's understanding.

Lifeway Christian Resources: Adapted from Camille Hamilton, "The Signs of Accountability"

Questions Kids Ask About Salvation

As a parent, you are fortunate. You have some important answers to the most important question. "How do I become a Christian?" Read the following questions and answers related to Christian conversion. You can be ready with the answers. Your source of course is the Bible.

What is sin? The Bible contains God's rules of behavior. When you choose not to follow God's rules, you sin against God.

- "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." James 4:17

Will God punish me for my sin? Yes. When you choose to disobey God, you do not feel close to God or happy with your life. Without God's forgiveness, punishment continues after death.

- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Will God forgive me for my sin? Yes. When you ask God for forgiveness and trust in His Son, Jesus, your sins are forgiven by God.

- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

What does it mean to trust in Jesus? To trust (or believe in) Jesus means trusting Jesus to save you from punishment and choosing to follow Jesus' example. By His behavior, Jesus showed us how to live in God's way and how to follow God's rules.

- "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." John 14:1
- "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:11

How do I tell God I want to be a Christian? The Bible says that you must be sorry (repent for your sins). You must pray to God and ask God to forgive your sins. You must trust in Jesus to save you from the punishment that you deserve. Then you must promise to follow Jesus' example and do your best to live in ways that honor God.

- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." John 1:9
- "If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15

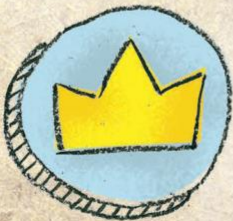
Why do I need to be baptized? Jesus said we must be willing to tell others that we are Christians. Jesus was baptized when He began to teach others about God. When we follow Jesus' example by being baptized, we show others that we have promised to live by Jesus' example.

- "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

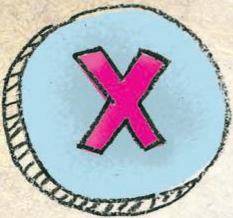
The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



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.