

# Talking to your child about SALVATION



Talking to your child about salvation can feel overwhelming, but you're not alone. As their parent, you play the most important role in guiding their faith. This guide will help you feel confident as you walk through these conversations together.

## Four Stages of the Faith Journey

These four stages can help prepare you as your child begins their faith journey. These stages exist to help us understand where our kids are, what stage will be next, and how we can walk alongside them as we disciple them.



### Discovery Stage

At this stage, kids are full of curiosity! They ask big questions about God, church, and faith—often wondering about things like baptism or the Lord's Supper. While curiosity is a great start, it's different from conviction. This is a time of learning, discovery, and building a foundation of faith.

**Next Step:** Encourage curiosity! Keep reading Bible stories together and have regular faith conversations at home. Make space for questions, even if you don't have all the answers.

### Discerning Stage

At this stage, kids begin asking deeper questions about life, death, and what happens after we die. They start understanding the core truths of the gospel, and those truths begin to feel more personal rather than just stories they've heard.

**Next Step:** Talk through their questions and look at what the Bible says. Gently guide them as they start to connect the dots, and affirm that their questions are part of how God works in our hearts.

### Deciding Stage

Here, kids start putting the pieces together. They recognize their sin, understand their need for a Savior, and may feel ready to trust and follow Jesus. This is often when kids express a desire to pray, accept Christ, and take steps toward baptism.

**Next Step:** If your child expresses interest in following Jesus, talk with them about what that means. Pray together, and reach out to your church or kids ministry leader to help with next steps like baptism or a gospel conversation.

### Discipling Stage

After a child decides to follow Jesus, their journey is just beginning! Learning, growing, and discovering have just begun. This is the stage where they develop habits like reading the Bible, praying, and living out their faith.

**Next Step:** Help your child grow in their faith by encouraging daily Bible reading, prayer, and regular church attendance. Walk with them as they learn how to live for Jesus in everyday life.

## How Do I Steward These Conversations Well?

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul writes these words:

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building." (6-9)

The responsibility of discipling our kids toward responding to the Gospel is an important one, but we don't carry it alone. The good news is, as Paul reminds us, we are called to 'plant' and 'water' the truth—sharing how God loves them and sent Jesus to save them from their sins—but God is the one who makes faith grow. Our role is to be faithful in sharing the Gospel with them and to trust the Spirit to do the rest!



## Tips for talking with your kids about salvation

Use kid-friendly language. Avoid churchy words they might not understand.

Ask open-ended questions. Encourage discussion rather than yes/no responses.

Let them lead! They can process at their own pace. It's okay if they aren't ready yet.

Keep conversations natural. Faith discussions can happen at bedtime, during car rides, or at mealtime.

You don't have to have all the answers! Lean on resources like a kids' study Bible, trusted books, or church leaders for support. More than anything, kids need to know it's okay to ask big questions and seek answers together.

# How to share the GOSPEL

There are many methods of sharing the Gospel. Here are two of our favorites:

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me



GOD RULES



WE SINNED



GOD PROVIDED

- **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 forgives us and makes us new. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- **We Respond:** Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "What do you think about trusting Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10



JESUS GIVES



WE RESPOND

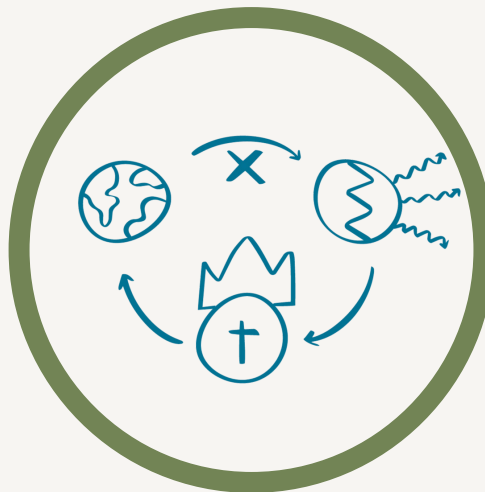
## Three Circles

### Circle 1 - Whole

In the beginning, God, the perfect Designer, created everything, and He created everything on purpose for a purpose. In the beginning, everything God made was perfect and good.

### Circle 2 - Brokenness

We all live in a world broken by sin. Sin broke our relationship with God. The first people—and everyone since—have run away from God by trying to do things our own way, instead of God's way. People try to live good lives and fix their mistakes, but we can't erase sin on our own.



### Circle 3 - Restoration

But God—the One who created all things—had a master plan. A plan to make you new again and fix the relationship that was broken by sin. God loves you, and He never wanted you or me to live in this brokenness. God's plan was to send His only Son, Jesus. He saved us from our sin! The truth is, after we decide to follow Jesus, we will still fall and fail from time to time. But even when we do, we know that our relationship with God has been restored and that God will lead us. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to pursue His Design and gives us confidence that He is always with us now and forever.

*No matter which method you use, the goal is the same: helping your child understand and respond to the Gospel!*

## My Child Made a Decision, Now What?

1. **Trust the Holy Spirit.** Jesus welcomes children with open arms (Luke 18:16), and He is ready to begin transforming their lives. Remember, there's no such thing as a 'junior Holy Spirit'—they are fully part of God's family!
2. **Look for evidence of the Holy Spirit in your child's life:** Do they have a desire for God's Word and learning more about Jesus? Do you see evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit in their lives beginning to grow? (Gal 5:22-23) Are they becoming aware of their sin and seeking forgiveness from people and from God? These are great ways, as a parent, to be sure that your child has been changed by the Gospel.
3. **Schedule their Baptism.** Ask your Kids Pastor what the next steps are for being baptized at Church. It's time to tell the world of this incredible news!
4. **Help them GROW.** This is an incredibly important time to help your child grow in their love of the Bible. This allows them to know more about who God is, how much He loves us, and how He wants us to live.