

LEADING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST

A Parent's Practical Guide to Discipleship & Salvation

Sharing the gospel with your child is one of the most beautiful privileges of parenting. Surrender to Christ is a personal, faith-filled response to God's love and forgiveness that leads us to salvation. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as you guide your child.

1. THE GOSPEL FRAMEWORK (THE ABCs)

A simple, memorable way to walk your child through the truths of scripture.

A

Admit & Repent

Acknowledge that we have all sinned and need forgiveness. Repentance means choosing to turn away from sin and toward God.

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
—Romans 3:23*

B

Believe & Trust

Trust that Jesus Christ is God's Son, who died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose again to life to give us eternal fellowship with Him.

*"....while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
—Romans 5:8*

C

Confess & Follow

Openly declare that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of your life, choosing to follow Him and continue to grow in your relationship with Him forever.

*"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord'...you will be saved."
—Romans 10:9*

2. CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

Use some of these open-ended prompts to ensure understanding.

"What does sin mean to you?"

Sin is any thought, word, or action that goes against God's rules and His will. It separates us from God's perfect holiness.

"What makes someone a Christian?"

A Christian is someone who has been saved by faith in Jesus Christ. We can't do anything to earn our salvation, it's by God's grace that we are saved.

"Why do you think Jesus died on the cross?"

Jesus died, even though he did nothing wrong, to take the punishment of sin for all of us. He saved us because God loves us and wants us to be with Him forever.

"Why do you want to follow Jesus?"

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Jesus shows us the better way - the way of life and peace, flourishing and health.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." — Proverbs 22:6

WALKING TOGETHER INTO NEW LIFE

3. PRAYING TOGETHER

When a child is ready to surrender to Christ, encourage them to speak honestly with God. If a guide is needed, lead them to pray something like this from their heart:

Prayer of Salvation

"Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus is your son who died for me and then rose from the dead. I want to turn away from all sin and for you to be the leader of my life. Help me follow You every day. Thank you for loving me. In Jesus name, amen."

4. WISDOM FOR PARENTS

- **Don't Rush the Moment:** Let your child process what the Holy Spirit is impressing upon them. Try not to force an experience. God is working on His timeline! Keep praying for your child's salvation and trust that God loves all children even more than we possibly can.
- **Emphasize Grace Over Works:** It's easy to misunderstand and think that being "good" saves us. Reassure your child that Jesus loves them so much that his grace and salvation is a free gift. Explain that as we continue growing closer to God, we learn to obey Him more and more.
- **Celebrate Wholeheartedly:** When your child places their faith in Christ, celebrate this major milestone! Mark the date in a Bible, cook a favorite dinner, and/or call friends and family to tell them the great news.
- **Model Authentic Faith:** Your daily walk with God speaks louder than any words you can say. Let them witness your own ongoing repentance, dependence on scripture, and love for Christ's Church.

5. THE NEXT DISCIPLESHIP STEPS

Surrender to Jesus is the beginning of a lifelong journey. Help your child grow in their faith and relationship with God in these ways:

1. Baptism

Baptism is the initiation into God's covenant family and marks the beginning of the journey of faith.

2. Daily Word

Read the Bible together daily. Build a habit of turning to scripture for wisdom and comfort.

3. Church & Service

Making church attendance a priority and serving others gives children confidence that you are living the faith you claim.



"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." — 3 John 1:4