



## Talking to Your Child About Salvation

It may seem like a difficult thing to talk to your child about salvation, but the good news is you have the Holy Spirit equipping you. It is important to talk to your child about the gospel, but we cannot and should not force our children to make a salvation decision. Your child's decision to put their faith in Jesus is ultimately theirs and between them and God.

SOME HELPFUL GUIDELINES ARE:

1. Have short conversations without expectations
2. Ask open-ended questions to gauge their understanding and readiness
3. Share the gospel message on a child's level
4. Don't assume you know what God is doing in their heart
5. Rely on the Holy Spirit

Below are some kid friendly words you can use to explain what it means to be 'saved' and why we need Jesus to save us.

### What is Salvation?

Simply put, salvation is God rescuing us from the consequences of our sins. To be saved we must be sorry for the wrong things we have done, and ask God to forgive us, trusting in what Jesus did by dying on the cross to pay the price for our sins, and committing to follow Him as leader of our life.

### The Gospel

#### Our Need for Salvation

Everyone has sinned. A sin is when we choose to do what we want instead of what God wants - like not obeying parents, being mean to a friend, lying, or even being selfish in our hearts. Sin separates us from God because we are rejecting Him and what He wants for us when we sin.

God is just and fair, and He must punish wrongdoing. The wrong things that we do hurt Him, other people, and even ourselves. When we sin it is as if we put up a big wall between God and ourselves and told Him we don't want Him in our lives.

Imagine if someone kept breaking a beautiful toy. Even little cracks matter, because soon the toy can't work the way it was made to. Sin is like that—it breaks the world God made



good. So even what we may think of as little sins are a big deal to God. God is perfectly good and loving, so He can't just pretend sin doesn't matter. That wouldn't be fair, and it wouldn't really fix what's broken.

God is the giver of life, and when we sin, we are rejecting Him and the life that He wants to give us. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death – to be separated from the one who gives us life (Romans 6:23).

## The Good News

God is just and must punish sin. But He is loving and wants to give us an opportunity to be forgiven (John 3:16). God sent Jesus to earth. Jesus was without sin and God's holy son. He never did anything wrong. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. He took our punishment on his body. He could do that because he was perfect and God's son. If we ask God to forgive us and trust that Jesus died for us, and that He arose again, God forgives us of all the wrong things that we have done. God considers our debt paid. We are forgiven. We are no longer separated from God, and God claims us as part of His special family. Those who are part of God's family will one day go to live with God in heaven.

God won't force anyone to love Him or force them to ask Him for forgiveness. He has lovingly given us the opportunity to be forgiven if we ask and put our trust in Him.

*Ask your child if this makes sense to them. You may want to ask a few questions to be sure they understand why Jesus had to die on the cross for them, and why they need God's forgiveness.*

*If your child is wanting to accept Jesus Christ you can pray this prayer. It is not the prayer that saves you but the heart to turn from your sins and live for Jesus. See the example salvation prayer below:*

Dear God,

Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to die on the cross for my sins. Come into my heart, cleanse me of my sins, and give me the courage to live for you from this day forward. Amen.

If your child has decided to give their life to Jesus, we would love to know and celebrate with you.