Kids Salvation
Parent Guide
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“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 NIV

My kid is asking questions about salvation. What do I say?

This is an exciting time in a kid’s life. They’re starting to ask questions about faith. They’re wondering about God and His love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—ones that don’t have a simple answer. But that’s okay. This is a starting point for your kid to begin a lifelong conversation about faith. And if possible, make sure that parents and guardians around if and when a kid chooses to accept Christ. It’s a life-changing decision, and they should be involved as well. If you’re looking for a place to start, we suggest John 3:16. It lays the foundation for God’s love for us that sent Jesus to be our savior.

“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 NIV
**GOD LOVED**
- God loved you before you were even born. He created you in His Image. And He loves you right now. God has a plan for your life—like a story.
- But there is something that separates us from Him, something that keeps us from being with Him forever. It’s called sin. Sin is the stuff we do wrong. Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us.
- On our own, we can’t do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. And because God loves us, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.
- **ASK:** What is sin? Have you ever sinned? When? What is the problem with sin?

**GOD GAVE**
- God knew that our sin would keep us from living with Him forever. But because God loved us, He gave the most important, valuable, and perfect thing He had for you.
- God gave His Son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for you to be with Him.
- That’s why Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again.
- **ASK:** What did God give us? Why did God give this gift? What did Jesus do for us?

**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN JESUS**
- When you receive a gift, what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift of salvation by believing Jesus died and rose again.
- Believing simply means to trust. It’s a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight in it. You trust that it will hold you up. That’s what it’s like to believe in or to trust in this gift.
- To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.
- **ASK:** How can you take part in God’s big story? What does it mean to trust in something? How do you know God loves you?
1. “Invite Jesus into your heart.”
For kids, the phrase “inviting Jesus into my heart” can be confusing. They’re such concrete thinkers that it can worry them to think that someone is living inside their actual heart.

2. “You have to pray like this . . . ”
Kids are going to express their faith with how they understand it at their age. Don’t get hung up on the “right words” but rather the heart with which they pray.

3. Any answers you make up
Don’t make up answers to questions that you don’t know yourself. “I don’t know” is a legitimate answer to questions that your kids have about faith. There’s so much that we don’t understand about how God works and how the Holy Spirit enters our life. And that’s okay.

You can use the following prayer with your child as you lead them to trust Jesus.

Dear Heavenly Father,
I know I am a sinner. I know my sin should separate me from You forever. I believe Your son, Jesus, died for my sins. I accept Your forgiveness for my sin. Thank You for loving me and for giving the gift of Jesus so I could live with You in heaven. Come into my life and be my Savior and Friend. In Jesus’ name, Amen.
We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children under the age of seven can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older. Going through our kids baptism class helps to make sure kids understand the decision they’re making.

As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child. The following answers show that your child understands.

1. **When did you decide to follow Jesus and become His forever friend?**
   Your child should have a specific memory of when he or she understood what Jesus did, and that he or she needs Jesus in their life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when they were alone.

2. **What does it mean to be water baptized?**
   It means I’m following Jesus. It means I’m a Christian and I want to show the world. It’s a picture of what Jesus has done on the inside of me.

3. **Why do you want to be water baptized?**
   Because Jesus was baptized and he tells us to be baptized also. Because I’m a friend of Jesus and I want to follow Him.
The Good News Gospel
God rules.
God came first. He always was. He is the King of the universe.

We sinned.
God created people to share His glory, life, and love. But we have all rebelled against Him. We want our own way. We do wrong things.

God provided.
God knew we would have a need to be rescued, so He had a plan from before the beginning of time. He would send His only Son, Jesus, to become the sacrifice that would make people right with Him again.

We respond.
Each person who hears the truth about Jesus gets to decide to respond by welcoming Him into her life or by ignoring what she has learned. It is sad when people walk away from God’s offer to save them, but people do it every day. We can’t force people to believe. We can pray for our friends and family who don’t believe and tell them how Jesus has changed us. People must realize they need Jesus before they can respond to Him.

Jesus gives.
At just the right time, God sent Jesus. Jesus did what no human could do. He lived a perfect life. He said yes to everything God asked Him to do. He never did anything wrong. People were not nice to Him. When He died on the cross, He was taking the punishment for the sins of all people. Because Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He alone has permission to erase sin from the hearts of people who believe in Him and ask Him to forgive them.
The ABC's Of Becoming A Christian.

Jesus wants to be your friend forever! A Christian is someone who has decided to love Jesus forever and obey God. Becoming a Christian is a big deal and these ABC's can help you learn exactly what it takes.

**Admit.**
To own up or agree
A person must admit they're a sinner before he can receive Jesus.

**Believe.**
To know and trust that something is true
A person must believe that Jesus is God’s son and that Jesus saved us from our sins.

**Confess.**
To tell
Each person confess their faith in Jesus as their Savior and Lord forever.
During the Passover (a festival they celebrated to remember how God freed the Israelites from Egypt), Jesus and His friends sat down for dinner together for Jesus’ last supper before He was betrayed and arrested. That’s why it’s called The Last Supper.

Now, during the Last Supper while they were eating Jesus took some bread and blessed it. He broke it into pieces and gave it to the disciples. He said "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."

Then He took a cup of juice and gave thanks to God. He gave it to them and said "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the promise between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."

Jesus want to be our friend. He gave His life on the cross for each and every one of us. He did this so we could experience the fullness of His love, receive His forgiveness of our sins, and so we could be His friend forever!

When we have chosen to trust God and believe that He sent Jesus to do just that, we can be His friend forever.

When we join in and do communion together - it’s to remember all that Jesus has done for us.

Communion Conversation Guide For Kids

What to say:

- During the Passover (a festival they celebrated to remember how God freed the Israelites from Egypt), Jesus and His friends sat down for dinner together for Jesus' last supper before He was betrayed and arrested. That's why it's called The Last Supper.
- Now, during the last supper while they were eating Jesus took some bread and blessed it. He broke it into pieces and gave it to the disciples. He said "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."
- Then He took a cup of juice and gave thanks to God. He gave it to them and said "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the promise between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."
- Jesus wants to be our friend. He gave His life on the cross for each and every one of us. He did this so we could experience the fullness of His love, receive His forgiveness of our sins, and so we could be His friend forever!
- When we have chosen to trust God and believe that He sent Jesus to do just that, we can be His friend forever.
- When we join in and do communion together - it's to remember all that Jesus has done for us.
What we do:

- During communion you will get a piece of bread and little bit of juice.
- When we at the bread, we remember that Jesus' body was broken for our sins.
- When we drink the juice, we remember the promise that we can be set free from all sin through Jesus' shed blood.
- We take a moment to be quiet and think about all our sins - all the things we need to say "i'm sorry" for and we ask Jesus to forgive us.
- We take a moment to pray and say "Thank you Jesus, for your sacrifice. You have set me free!"

Follow up questions:

- What did the bread and juice taste like?
- Did you hear any words that were confusing?
- What are you curious about relating to this?

Tips:

- Read Matthew 26 to help prepare you for the conversation
- Don’t stress. It’s okay if you can’t answer every single question - don’t make up answers, just say that you will look into it. Then really look into it!
- Be patient. Kids are kids. There's no pressure for this moment to be perfect.
Peace Kidz
If you have any questions or would like to talk to someone about the process, reach out to our Peace Kidz team at kidz@thisispeace.org

Resources Used
Think Orange: Salvation Guide/Start Here
Lifeway Kids: I'm A Christian Now What?