



Salvation and kids

A Parent Guide

Renovation Parent's,

Thank you for taking time to visit this resource to help your child understand salvation through Jesus Christ

As a parent, we strongly believe that you are the greatest spiritual influence in your child's life, so we

want to equip you to have these important conversations with your child.

Through this guide you will find discussion guides, key scriptures and other resources to help your child understand power of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Some things to know!

Children are *literal minded*; they see what you say! Close your eyes and imagine a literal picture of the following:

- Being washed in the blood or washing our sins away (When we are forgiven of our sin, Jesus both forgives and forgets our sin.)
- Asking Jesus into your heart (Asking Jesus to be in charge of our lives.)
- New creation in Christ (Our lives will change when we decide to follow Jesus.)
- Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart (Jesus wants you to become a Christian.)

Children often have short attention spans.

- Practice a simple presentation outline before you have a real-life opportunity to share with a child.
- Mark your Bible with key verses that you can show or have a child read with you. Think one minute per year of age +1 for the length of your presentation.
- Check the Conversation Guide and Simplified Outline in this article for suggested outlines you can use, or combine ideas to create a plan with which you are comfortable.

Children can be talked into “praying the prayer” without experiencing the Holy Spirit at work.

Being sensitive to a child’s readiness to accept Christ is crucial. Sometimes, your initial conversations with a child will be the beginning of an ongoing, multi-part conversation. Allow time for responses, and do not act disappointed or upset if a child is not ready to make a decision during your initial time together.





Some things to know!

Children need to have a clear understanding of sin and repentance.

Sin is more than just “being bad.” It is understanding that we sin when we choose to disobey God’s teachings in the Bible.

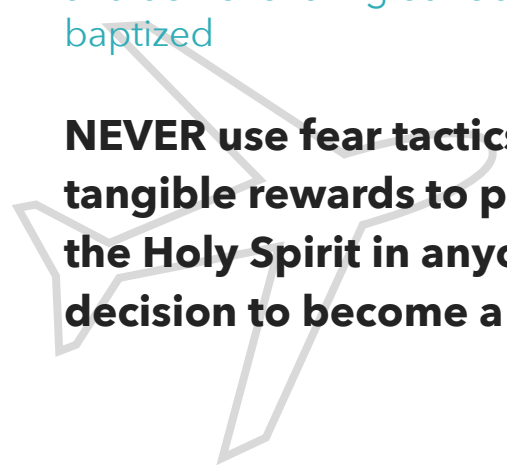
Repentance is more than just saying, “I’m sorry.” It is a sorrow over sin and a decision to follow God’s way over our own ways.

Children need to acknowledge their understanding that they sin and are sorry to God for their sin.

Children need to understand that God and Jesus are real. They are not part of the childhood trinity of the Easter bunny, Santa and the tooth fairy.

Children need to understand that baptism is not the same as becoming a Christian.

There is nothing magical about the baptismal waters. Baptism is our way of witnessing to our church our commitment to follow Christ (become a Christian) and demonstrating our obedience to Christ by following His command to be baptized



NEVER use fear tactics, peer pressure, adult pressure, prizes or tangible rewards to provoke a response from a child. The work of the Holy Spirit in anyone’s life is the only reason to make a decision to become a Christian.



Key Scriptures

1 John 4:10

Key idea: God sent Jesus to show His great love for us even though we have sinned

Romans 3:23

Everyone sins, and no one is perfect like God

Romans 6:23

Just as we earn a punishment when we do wrong things at home or school, God must punish our disobedience to Him, our sin. The Bible says this punishment is death, which means being separated from God forever. This breaks God's heart because He loves us so much, and this was not part of His original plan for people. God sent Jesus to take our punishment so that we can be forgiven of our disobedience and sin and enjoy life with Him forever.

John 3:16

Jesus' death on the cross takes away our punishment for sin if we believe He is God's son who came to die in our place and rose again from the dead.

1 John 1:9

We must ask God to forgive us of our sin and commit to be His follower all of our life if we want to have everlasting life. God promises to forgive us and make us pure in His sight. With our sins forgiven, we have the promise of living with God forever in heaven.

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he following plan is simple. It utilizes five simple statements and Scriptures that will help you as you discuss Christianity with young children.

In some cases, children begin to think about becoming a Christian because of a situation or event. Such as a friend getting baptized or wanting to participate in the Lord's Supper. Knowing this information can help you know how to guide the discussion.

Begin with simple questions: "How long have you been thinking about becoming a Christian?" "When did you first start thinking about becoming a Christian?"



Conversation Guide

1. GOD LOVES YOU AND HAS A GREAT PLAN FOR YOU. (PSALM 139:13-16)

Begin speaking in warm terms about God. Emphasize these truths: God made the world, God made people, God made you, God wants to have a relationship with people, and God wants to have a relationship with you. Say, "Tell me one thing that is special about the way God made you."

To transition to the second point you may wish to say, "We know that God loves us and has a great plan for us, but why does a person need to become a Christian?" This question should lead into a discussion of sin.

2. WE HAVE ALL SINNED. (ROMANS 3:23)

The child must understand his "separateness from God." Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our way instead of God's way. Avoid talking about sin in a way that invades the child's privacy or causes unnecessary guilt. Consider these questions: "What is sin?" "Have you ever sinned?" "What does God think about sin?" How does sin affect our relationship with God?"

3. GOD STILL LOVES US AND OFFERS TO FORGIVE US. (ROMANS 5:8)

Ask, "How do you think it makes God feel when we sin?" Continue focusing on the fact that God loves us even though we sin. Say, "God promised that one day a Savior would come to the world.

That Savior would not sin and would die for all people. Do you know who that Savior is?"

4. JESUS DIED FOR US. (JOHN 3:16)

Ask, "Tell me what you know about Jesus?" Talk about John 3:16. Explain, "Because our sins separate us from God, we needed a Savior someone who would not sin, but do all that God wanted Him to do."

Ask, "Do you know why Jesus died?" Say, "God sent His only Son Jesus. Jesus died willingly for our sins so we could be with God forever. That is how much He loved us." Ask, "What happened to Jesus after He died?" Explain that Jesus rose from the dead so we could have eternal life. We live for Him here on earth, and one day will live with Him in heaven.

Conversation Guide cont...

5. YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN BY CONFESSING JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD. (ROMANS 10:9)

Ask, “Do you know how to become a Christian?” Say, “The word ‘confess’ means to say something. You confess that Jesus is your Savior and Lord. First, admit you are a sinner. Then you must also ‘repent’ or turn from sin and say to God that you are sorry for your sins. When you become a Christian, you are saying to God you will go His direction instead of your own. That is what it means when you say Jesus is your Lord.”

6. REVIEW AND FOLLOW- UP. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

Encourage your child to tell you in his own words what he understands.

Ask your child, “Do you want to become a Christian? Do you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?” If the answer is yes, review what the child must pray:

Admitting he has sinned and is sorry for his sin.

Believing that Jesus is God’s Son, and

Confessing that Jesus is his Savior and Lord. Encourage the child to pray in his own words.

After the child prays, read Romans 10:13 and remind him this verse is a promise.

It means that he has become a Christian. Suggest

some special way to remember the occasion such as writing the date in his Bible, beginning a journal, taking a family photo, etc. Encourage the family to have a daily devotional. Also, discuss with him how the church handles the next step for baptism.

Becoming a Christian is the beginning of an exciting journey that doesn’t end until we are reunited with Jesus in heaven.

CONTACT ONE OF YOUR PASTORS AT RENOVATION CHURCH.

Once your child has made this decision to follow Jesus we want to celebrate with you! Please contact our family pastor at joey@renovationonline.org

Gods Plan for Becoming a Christian

Simplified Outline

God loves you.

This is how God showed his love to us: He sent his one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us. He sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins. (New Century Version, 1 John 4:9-10)

Sin separates us from God.

The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Everyone sins.

Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard... (Romans 6:23)

We must be sorry for our sins.

But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is

right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done. (1 John 1:9)

We must believe in Jesus and what He did for us.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

We are to follow Jesus' way about how we should live our life.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. (John 15:14)

We should tell others about our faith in Jesus.

"All those who stand before others and say they believe in me, I will say before my Father in heaven that they belong to me." (Matthew 10:32)



Other Resources

- Download [The Bible App for KIDS](#) on your mobile device. This is a great resource for helping kids see the whole story of God at work through the Bible!
- Want a more hands on, storytelling approach? Check out this [resource](#) to get started!
- For any questions you can contact Pastor Joey at joey@renovationonline.org