

Talking to Your Children About Salvation

When talking a child about salvation:

Ask follow-up questions. When a child asks a question, often he does not know exactly what to ask. Get clarification before deciding how to answer a question. For example, you might say, “Tell me more about what you are thinking”, or “What made you ask that question? Where did you hear about this?” Remember, many times the question a child asks may not be the actual question for which he is needing an answer. Avoid asking questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no”.

Avoid giving more information than a child needs. Adults are tempted to tell all they know on a subject. Be specific with your answers.

Don't jump to conclusions. A child may ask, “Why did Andy get baptized?” This question may be only a request for information, not a request for the gospel presentation.

Speak in clear terms. Avoid symbolic analogies that may distract from discussion and understanding.

Use simple wording. Rather than using the phrase “accepting Jesus into your heart,” say the words “becoming a Christian”.

Steps in talking with a child about God's Plan for Salvation:

- 1. God loves you and has a great plan for you (Psalm 139:13-16).** Talk about truths: God made the world, God made people, God made you, God wants to have friendship (relationship) with you. Ask them to tell you one way they know God loves them.
- 2. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23).** Help them understand that everyone is separated from God. Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our way instead of God's way. Point out ways people sin: disobey, ungratefulness, not telling the truth, etc).
- 3. Even though we choose to sin, God still loves us and offers to forgive us (Romans 5:8).** Ask them how do they think God feels when we choose to do wrong? Focus on the fact that God loves the child even when he does wrong.
- 4. Jesus died for us (John 3:16).** Explain that because sin separates people from God, everyone needs a Savior. Ask, “Do you know why Jesus died?” “Jesus loved you so much, He willingly died for you so you could be with God forever. If the child is old enough to understand resurrection talk about Jesus rising from the dead and sits in heaven now.
- 5. You can become a Christian by confessing that Jesus is your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9).** Ask if they would like to become a Christian? Tell them that confess means to say that Jesus is your Savior and that you need to:
 - Admit you have sinned
 - Believe that Jesus is God's Son
 - Confess that Jesus is Savior and Lord
- 6. Review and follow up.** Encourage the child to tell you in his own words what he understands and believes. Have child repeat a prayer with you or help the child know how to pray in his own words. Remind them that Jesus will be with him forever (Romans 10:13).