

A Guide from Grace Kids

LEADING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST

DO'S

- **Ask open-ended questions.** This allows you to find out what your child really knows and understands.
- **Be honest.** The truth is your child might ask you a question that catches you off guard. Let them know you are going to have to find out the answer for yourself. You could even let them be part of you finding out the answer.
- **Trust God's Spirit.** Typically, you will not just have one conversation about salvation and baptism with your child. It will be an on again off again kind of process. Through all of it listen to and trust the Spirit's prompting as you talk with and lead your child.
- **Keep the conversation going.** If you feel like your child is not quite ready you still want to keep the communication lines open. Talk with them about your relationship with Jesus, how it started and how it is growing and changing you.

DON'TS

- **Force the conversation.** Often times kids will want to process the information or conversation you just had. Do not keep probing them with questions if they are not feeling it. They will pick the conversation back up when they are ready.
- **Speak in Christianese.** Your child might not understand all the language that you are accustomed to using. If you do use big theological words, be sure to define them. Also, avoid symbolic language as it is hard for some kids to grasp.
- **Expect them to know all the answers.** Kids may not be able to define all the theological terms

KEY CONCEPTS

1. **Understanding of sin.** A child should be able to define and identify sin in their own life. There should also be a brokenness over the sin in their life.
2. **Belief in Jesus.** A child should believe that Jesus is God's and that He lived, died and was raised from the dead for the forgiveness of sin.
3. **Separation of salvation and baptism.** A kid must be able to understand that baptism does not have any saving power and that they are completely forgiven the moment of belief.

GOSPEL PRESENTATION EXAMPLE

1. **In the beginning (Genesis 1:27):** God created all things and made people in His image. God and mankind were in a perfect relationship until...sin.
2. **We all have sinned (Romans 3:23):** Everyone must understand that he/she is separated from God. Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our own way instead of God's way. We define sin as anything you say, do or think that displeases God. Have your child name some examples of sin in their own life.
3. **We deserve punishment for our sin (Romans 6:23):** Explain that "wages" are what someone gets for what they have done. A parent performs a job and earns money or a wage. A child may get "wages" for doing chores. The wages of sin is death. This death refers to a separation from God.
4. **God still loves us even though we choose to sin (Romans 5:8):** Ask, "How do you think it makes God feel when you sin?" Focus on the fact that God loves the child even when they sin. Say: "God promised that one day a Savior would come and not sin and would die for all people. Do you know who that Savior is? Did you know that He died for you?"
5. **Jesus died for us (John 3:16, 14:6):** Ask your child to read or say John 3:16. Ask, "Do you know why Jesus died?" It is because Jesus loves you so much. He willingly died for you, but the story doesn't stop there. God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day and because of His life, death and resurrection we can live forever with God in Heaven.
6. **You can have a relationship with Jesus by choosing to follow Him (Romans 10:9, Luke 9:23):** Believe in Jesus, that He is God's Son and that He lived, died and was raised from the dead so that you could be forgiven and live with Him forever. For that to happen, you have to choose to follow after Jesus. No one else can make that choice for you.
 - **Admit** to God that you are a sinner. (Psalm 32:5, 1 John 1:9)
 - **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son, that He lived, died and was raised from the dead. (Romans 10:9, Acts 16:31)
 - **Choose** to follow Jesus. (Luke 9:23, Matthew 6:24)

TALKING ABOUT BAPTISM

- **Baptism is a symbol.** Baptism is an outward expression of the forgiveness and new life that someone has in Jesus.
- **Baptism is for someone who believes in Jesus.** Baptism is an act that shows others they are following Jesus.
- **Baptism is not for everyone.** Baptism is not something everyone does. It is only for those who believe in Jesus and have been saved.
- **Baptism is not salvation.** The act of baptism has no special powers, does not save anyone nor does it wash away sin.