

# INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST

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As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there is nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. Many parents who worry that they don't have the training or understanding to lead their children to salvation may be tempted to just leave it to the "professionals" – to rely on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to influencing your child's path to salvation. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the when and how of introducing them to Christ.

## STEP ONE

### Lay a Foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation (hearing the stories of the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth) as well as experiencing life in your home (watching your example, feeling your love, learning right from wrong). These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "*These words that I command you today shall be on your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise.*" Don't worry if your child hasn't grown up in church because your family is new to the faith. It is never too late to start.

## STEP TWO

### Discern Readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure they are ready in both heart and head and can truly understand the gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually mature enough to make a commitment.

When you feel they are ready, ask a few questions to help gauge your child's level of understanding. Read Romans 6:23 "*For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Then ask questions like, "*What is sin?*" "*How does your sin affect your relationship to God?*" and "*How can you be right with God?*" How they respond can help you sense whether your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- **Jesus as Savior:** The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- **Jesus as Lord:** The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life.

**"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."**

**Romans 10:9-10**

## STEP THREE

### Guide Your Child in Prayer for Salvation

If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is and what it leads to, as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide your child to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it is best to prompt them to use their own words: to tell God they are sorry for their sins, to ask for His forgiveness, and to ask Him to be Lord over the rest of their life.

## STEP FOUR

### Prepare Them for Baptism

Water baptism is a symbolic act by which a new Christian identifies with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Water baptism is a public profession of a person's inward repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and an outward declaration to others of how Jesus has changed your life and that you've decided to follow Him.

Once your child has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and would like to make a public declaration of that decision, we encourage you to go to [Crossbridge.cc/kids](http://Crossbridge.cc/kids) and sign up for the Parent+Child Baptism Class called, We Believe.

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## GOING FURTHER

### RESOURCES

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#### *Leading Your Kids to Christ: 30 Days to Prepare Your Heart*

by Criswell Freeman

Provides parents with a thirty-day guide to leading their child to a personal relationship with Christ.

#### *The Faith of a Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Salvation for Your Child*

by Art Murphy

Designed to teach parents, grandparents, or anyone who works with children how to be equipped and confident in guiding them to a saving faith in Christ.

#### *Show them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids*

by Jack Klumpenhower

A transformative resource for parents, youth workers, and children's ministry teachers, helping you discover the gospel connection in every Bible story.

#### *Leading Your Child to Jesus: How Parents Can Talk with Their Kids about Faith*

by David Staal

Equips parents with simple, effective communication tools to share their own salvation story, explain the gospel in kid-friendly language, and lead their child in a prayer of salvation.

#### *We Believe – A Parent+Child Baptism Class*

A one-hour class for children in grades 1st-6th and their parent/guardian. Go to [Crossbridge.cc/kids](http://Crossbridge.cc/kids) for more information and to register.

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