

# SALVATION

## CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR KIDS



This is an exciting time in a kid's life. They are starting to ask questions about faith - some that may not have a simple answer. That's OKAY! This is a starting point for them to begin a lifelong conversation about faith. If possible, make sure that parents & guardians are around if / when a child chooses to accept Christ.

### WHAT TO SAY

#### Avoid Coercion

- Most kids have a desire to please adults. Avoid language that might pressure a kid into a disingenuous decision to follow Jesus. It's okay to present opportunities by asking questions like, "Do you ever think about asking Jesus to be your Savior?" but allow them to reach a conclusion on their own. Lead them towards a decision; don't push them.

#### Use the ABCs

- If a kid has already heard the Gospel and has expressed a desire to become a Christian, explain to them the ABCs of prayer. **"A"** - Admit you have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. **"B"** - Believe that God has sent His son, Jesus, to die for your sins. **"C"** - Choose to follow Jesus and make Him the leader of your life.

#### Prompt the child in prayer

- It's important that the salvation prayer comes from the heart of the child. Instead of having a kid repeat the prayer after you, provide prompts and let them do the praying. For example, begin by opening the prayer, but then prompt the kid to "admit" they have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. Pause for the child to say their own prayer and then prompt them through "believe" and "choose."

# SALVATION

## CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR KIDS



This is an exciting time in a kid's life. They are starting to ask questions about faith - some that may not have a simple answer. That's OKAY! This is a starting point for them to begin a lifelong conversation about faith. If possible, make sure that parents & guardians are around if / when a child chooses to accept Christ.

### WHAT TO SAY

#### Avoid Coercion

- Most kids have a desire to please adults. Avoid language that might pressure a kid into a disingenuous decision to follow Jesus. It's okay to present opportunities by asking questions like, "Do you ever think about asking Jesus to be your Savior?" but allow them to reach a conclusion on their own. Lead them towards a decision; don't push them.

#### Use the ABCs

- If a kid has already heard the Gospel and has expressed a desire to become a Christian, explain to them the ABCs of prayer. **"A"** - Admit you have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. **"B"** - Believe that God has sent His son, Jesus, to die for your sins. **"C"** - Choose to follow Jesus and make Him the leader of your life.

#### Prompt the child in prayer

- It's important that the salvation prayer comes from the heart of the child. Instead of having a kid repeat the prayer after you, provide prompts and let them do the praying. For example, begin by opening the prayer, but then prompt the kid to "admit" they have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. Pause for the child to say their own prayer and then prompt them through "believe" and "choose."

## **Celebrate!**

- This is the greatest decision anyone could ever make and it's worth celebrating! Let them know that all of heaven is rejoicing over their decision. If the child doesn't have a Bible yet, we have Bibles available. Be sure to share the news with the leaders in your group & any other people who are important in the life of the child.

## **WHAT NOT TO SAY**



### **"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.

### **"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.

### **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.

*Preparing to have this conversation with the kids in your group might raise some of your own. If so, don't hesitate to reach out to a ministry leader to chat about these things further.*

## **Celebrate!**

- This is the greatest decision anyone could ever make and it's worth celebrating! Let them know that all of heaven is rejoicing over their decision. If the child doesn't have a Bible yet, we have Bibles available. Be sure to share the news with the leaders in your group & any other people who are important in the life of the child.

## **WHAT NOT TO SAY**



### **"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.

### **"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.

### **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.

*Preparing to have this conversation with the kids in your group might raise some of your own. If so, don't hesitate to reach out to a ministry leader to chat about these things further.*