

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” — J O H N 3 : 1 6

God wants you to live with Him forever. He has made the way for you through Jesus. Do you believe in Him?

## Leading a Child to Christ

Talking with children about their relationship with God is important—and it can be intimidating. But don’t let that stop you. God can help, and His message is simple enough for children to understand and believe. Keep the following tips in mind before, during, and after your conversation.

**Pray.** Ask God to help you talk about Him in a way that is loving, simple, and accurate. Ask Him to open the hearts and minds of children and to prepare and guide you for this discussion.

**Trust God.** Changing the heart and mind of any person is God’s job. We are responsible for delivering His message lovingly and accurately, but not for wrenching a decision from someone who is not ready. Asking, “Would you like to hear more about this now or at a later time?” and respecting their answers may help you know whether to continue the conversation or wait for another opportunity.

**Be an example.** Your life can show them that God’s love makes a difference.

**Listen.** Pay attention to the questions children may ask. When you don’t know the answer, tell them so and be sure to talk with them again when you find the answer. Listen for their heartfelt concerns and fears.

**Keep it simple.** Children are literal. Avoid using phrases like “Ask Jesus into your heart,” which to a child may seem more surgical than metaphorical. Children may repeat these phrases, but they may not understand them. This is why it helps to . . .

**Ask questions.** You’ll know how well they understand when you ask who-what-when-where-and-why questions, or when you ask them to repeat back to you what you have said. Ask questions that require them to offer their thoughts and opinions—not pat answers.

**Take time.** Allow time for private conversation and thought. Some children are afraid to ask questions in a group setting, and some may need a little time to think things over. Let them know you’ll be available to answer questions later. Then pay close attention if a child brings the subject up in a more private setting.

**Suggested prayer when the child is ready:** *Dear God, I know that I have done things that are wrong. I’m sorry; I want to change. Thank You for sending Jesus to die in my place, for forgiving me of my sins, and for making me new and clean inside. Please fill me with Your love, and teach me to love and obey You always. Amen.*