

Leading Your Child to Receive and Believe in Jesus

Remember that **God is more concerned** about your child's eternal destiny and happiness that you are.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent.*

Pray that God will give you the insight, sensitivity and wisdom in dealing with your child at their **age appropriate level**.

Be careful to not use "Christian-ese" terms that are not clear to your child, for example...taking Jesus into your heart; dying and going to hell; accepting Christ as your personal Savior, etc. These are usually too literal for children or not understandable to young minds.

Deal with your child alone and do not be in a rush. Take your time and make sure they understand.

An important scripture to keep in mind: Mark 10:14 *But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.*

Note that this passage talks of **allowing** children to come and **not forcing** them to come to Jesus.

Remember that **unless the Holy Spirit is speaking to your child** there will be no real, authentic heart change. Point out the love of God and not the terror of God (ex: He may come back tomorrow and you may be too late) type of statement.

Pray with faith believing in the Lord for what He can do in your child.

Here are some suggestions you can use to prepare yourself before you speak and share with your son or daughter:

God loves you! John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.* Put your child's name in the place of the word "world."

1. Show the child his or her need for the Savior:

Deal with sin carefully noting that there is one thing that cannot enter heaven...and that is sin.

Be sure your child knows what sin is. Ask them to name some things that are common to a child in terms of sin. Sin is doing or thinking anything wrong according to God's Word.

Ask the question: Have you sinned? If the answer is no, do not continue, urge them to come and talk to you again when they feel that they have sinned. Pray with them before they leave and ask the Lord to show them what they need. Remember it is the Holy Spirit's job to convict us of our sins. That is not our job!

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, CONTINUE and give them a personal illustration of some sin that he/she has done or something that has bothered them.

2. Tell them what God says:

Romans 5:8 *when we were in our sin Christ Jesus came to die for us.*

Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 10:9-10 *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

Romans 10:13 *for Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Relate God's gift of salvation to Christmas or birthday gifts: we don't have to earn them or pay for them, and we are thankful for them.

3. Bring the child to a definite decision:

Jesus must be received if salvation is to be possessed.

Remember do not force the decision.

Ask the child to pray out loud in her own words and give him or her something she could say if they seem unsure. Now be prepared for a blessing!

After salvation has occurred pray for them out loud. This is a good time to bless your child!

Lead your child into assurance: show them that they will have to keep their relationship open with God through repentance and forgiveness (just like all believers in Jesus) but that God will always love them.

Hebrews 13:5 *For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.*