



LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

KidzlinkAL.org

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Leading a Child to Christ

Current research indicates that nearly half of all Americans who accept Jesus as their Savior do so before they turn 13. We pray that you will have the opportunity for gospel conversations and gospel presentations with the children in your church and with whom you come into contact. Our desire with the information below is to assist you in these conversations.

When leading a child to Christ we certainly desire for them to have a conversion experience. Guiding that discussion is both a delicate and difficult subject.

- Approach it with both care and prayer.
- Pray for the children you teach and minister to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct. Make that a priority.
- Be careful not to lead children to make empty verbal professions of faith. We want children to know what it means to be a follower of Jesus and have a good understanding of that.

Some false reasons children may say they want to get saved:

1. To avoid going to hell
2. To get attention
3. To be a people pleaser
4. Not having a good understanding of how salvation works
5. To get an award
6. To get baptized

Some common reasons for false professions of faith:

1. Parents or teachers who get ahead of the work of the Holy Spirit (Our goal is for them to follow Jesus)
2. Children who have learned to love Jesus through Biblical teaching but have no conviction of sin
3. Children who make professions to please adults or gain praise

How to discern true salvation:

- Keep in mind that children are seldom saved out of deep sin, therefore there is no dramatic change in their lives.
- Children raised in a Christian home often express sincere love and belief in the Lord before they are saved.



Indications of salvation in children:

- Growth in character
- Improvement in attitude

Things to understand about children's development when leading a child to Christ:

- Children are literal minded – they see what you say.

Imagine what they “see” when you say this:

“Being washed in the blood of Jesus” or “Jesus washes away our sin.”

Instead say: “Jesus both forgives and forgets our sin.”

What do children picture when we say this:

“Ask Jesus into your heart.”

Instead say: “Ask Jesus to be in charge of your life.”

What about when we say this:

“You are a new creation in Christ.”

Instead say: “Our lives will change when we decide to follow Jesus.”

Here's one more:

“Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart.”

Instead say: “Jesus loves you and wants you to trust Him (become a Christian).”



Presenting the Gospel

In preparation to share the gospel with children, keep in mind:

- Children have short attention spans; practice a simple presentation that takes 5-8 minutes. Practice before your presentation.
- Deal with each child individually.
- Eliminate distractions.
- Children learn through their senses – they incorporate what they see, what they hear and what they experience.
- When children are seeking information about becoming a Christian be aware of cues the child exhibits. They may say, “I want to be baptized.” They may ask questions about heaven, hell, and salvation, some of which can be difficult to answer. Remember to answer all these questions truthfully.
- Mark your Bible with **key verses** you can use so a child can read with you. After reading the verses ask them, “What does this verse mean?”
- Give them time to talk, and allow time for their responses.
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare the heart of the child. (The Trinity is reliable to work in all of our lives.)
- Follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- Don’t “water down” the gospel, but be age appropriate. You can adapt vocabulary that would be appropriate for children without changing the message.
- Ask open-ended questions – not just yes or no questions.
- Ask questions to gauge what the child is feeling or thinking.
- Remember, children need a clear understanding of sin and repentance.
 1. Sin is more than just “being bad.”
 2. Each person needs to own that they choose to disobey God’s teaching in the Bible.
 3. Ask them, “What is sin?”
 4. Repentance is more than saying, “I’m sorry.” (Acts 3:19)
 5. We make the decision to follow God’s ways over our own ways.
 6. Children cannot repent of their sin if they don’t understand that they are a sinner. Ask them: “Who has sinned? The pastor? Your parents? What about you?” They need to recognize that all have sinned, even those they admire – and also themselves.
 7. Children need to be sorrowful for their sin and understand that forgiveness comes through Jesus.



- Be sensitive to the child's readiness to accept Christ.
- Use simple language and be careful with emotions. Do not use "churchy" language. Speak in clear terms. Wisdom is needed; however, children do not need to understand all of theology to be saved.
Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 18:3 (ESV):
 "and [He] said, 'Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'"
- If it is appropriate, you can share part of your testimony.
- Remember that children still believe in fantasy figures like Santa, the Easter Bunny, Disney characters, etc. They need to understand that God and Jesus are the TRUTH.
- Include discussion of baptism in your presentation:
 1. Children need to have a clear understanding that baptism doesn't "save" them or wash away their sins. Becoming a Christian comes first.
 2. Baptism cements our decision to become a Christ-follower and shows our obedience.
 3. Baptism shows the church our commitment to follow Christ. Emphasize they need to have a relationship with the Lord.
 4. Baptism is a follow-up to being a Christ-follower as well.
 5. Be aware that children may want to get baptized because their friends have been recently baptized.
 6. Public recognition should not be a motivation for baptism.
- When concluding ask: "Does this make sense? Do you have questions?"
- Don't be disappointed if a child is not ready to make a decision during your initial conversation. Leave room for future conversations.

Scriptures to use in presenting the gospel to children:

- Jeremiah 29:11

"I say this because I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future." (International Children's Bible)

- Romans 3:23

"Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." (New International Reader's Version)



- Romans 6:23

“The payment (wages) for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (International Children’s Bible)

Explain:

What a “wage” or payment means.

That sin deserves to be punished.

That death refers to separation from God.

The topic of hell may come up; don’t shy away, but at the same time don’t scare a child into salvation.

- Romans 5:8

“But here is how God has shown his love for us, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (New International Reader’s Version)

Focus on the fact that God loves everyone even when they sin.

God knows about every sin you commit.

God promised to send a Savior who would take the punishment for all sin.

Ask, “Do you know who that Savior is?”

- John 3:16

“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.” (New International Reader’s Version)

Explain:

Jesus died for us.

He is the only One who can save us. He lived a perfect life.

Jesus rose from the dead, so we could have eternal life.

- Romans 10:9-10

“Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say what you believe. And so you are saved.” (New International Reader’s Version)



Always follow up a gospel presentation with a prayer allowing the child to pray. When the Spirit leads, the right words will come. You can conclude with prayer. In following up use the following scripture:

- Romans 10:13

“Scripture says, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

This verse is a promise.

Make sure they understand that it is faith in Jesus that saves them.

It is not:

- Joining a church
- Getting baptized
- Doing good works

Scriptures to use about baptism:

Follow Jesus’ example:

- Mark 1:9

“At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the place where John was. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.” (International Children’s Bible)

Christ commanded it:

- Matthew 28:19-20

“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.” (New International Reader’s Version)

Scriptures on assurance of salvation:

- 1 John 2:3

“We know that we have come to know God if we obey his commands.” (New International Reader’s Version)



- John 10:28

“I give them eternal life, and they will never die. And no person can steal them out of my hand.” (International Children’s Bible)

After children make a profession of faith, follow up with family and discipleship materials:

- Meet with parents if they were not present when the child prayed.
- Provide resources and show them how to use them.
- Help parents understand baptism and invite them to schedule it.



RESOURCES

Lifeway

[Books and Bible Studies For New Christians | Lifeway](#)

- [I'm a Christian Now: Leader Kit Revised - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/i-m-a-christian-now-leader-kit-revised-P005810305
- [I'm a Christian Now Younger Kids Activity Book rev - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/i-m-a-christian-now-younger-kids-activity-book-rev-P005805596
- [I'm A Christian Now! Older Kids Activity Book Revised - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/i-m-a-christian-now-older-kids-activity-book-revised-P005805597
- [I'm A Christian Now: The Life of Jesus - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/i-m-a-christian-now-the-life-of-jesus-P005810304
- [I'm A Christian Now: Growing in My Faith - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/i-m-a-christian-now-growing-in-my-faith-P005793051

[So You're a Christian . . . What Now? - Lifeway](#) for Girls
www.lifeway.com/en/product/so-you-re-a-christian-what-now-P005792747

[So You're a Christian . . . What Now? - Lifeway](#) for Boys
www.lifeway.com/en/product/so-you-re-a-christian-what-now-P005792729

[The ABCs of Becoming a Christian: CSB - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/the-abcs-of-becoming-a-christian-csb-P005125105

[The Gospel: God's Plan for Me \(ESV\) - Lifeway](#)
www.lifeway.com/en/product/the-gospel-god-s-plan-for-me-esv-P005567178

Robby Gallaty

[Foundations, New Testament: Robby Gallaty: 9781535935876 - Christianbook.com](#)
www.christianbook.com/foundations-new-testament-robb-gallaty/9781535935876/pd/935876?event=CPOF



[Evangecube | eCube Classic | Fun & Portable Evangelism Cube – e3 Resources](http://e3resources.org/collections/e3-resources/products/ecube-classic)
e3resources.org/collections/e3-resources/products/ecube-classic

Three Circles

[3 Circles - North American Mission Board \(namb.net\)](http://namb.net)

3 Circles Video – North Carolina Baptist Convention

<https://vimeo.com/232503496>

Mr. Mark's Classroom

[Children-and-Salvation.pdf \(mrmarksclassroom.com\)](http://mrmarksclassroom.com)

mrmarksclassroom.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/10/files/2013/04/Children-and-Salvation.pdf

[Lola Mazola's Happyland Adventure: My John 3:16 Book: Morgan, Robert J., Dibley, Glin: 9780805446333: Amazon.com: Books](http://Amazon.com)

www.amazon.com/Lola-Mazolas-Happyland-Adventure-John/dp/0805446338/ref=sr_1_1?crid=13WITF9DRUI6l&keywords=Lola+Mazola%27s+Happyland+Adventure&pldnSite=1&qid=1642005988&srefix=lola+mazola%27s+happy+land+adventure%2Caps%2C59&sr=8-1