

# LEADING a child TO CHRIST

As parents and teachers, learning how to help a child on his spiritual journey in life is the most important skill that you can develop. This skill includes knowing how and when to talk with a child about becoming a Christian, and knowing the verses to use as you explain what the Bible teaches about becoming a Christian. Learning the simple *ABCs of Becoming a Christian* as well as the *ABCs of getting prepared to talk with a child* can aid you in this important task. The *ABCs of being prepared* are:

**A** **ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT CHILDREN AND BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.**

**B** **BE SURE YOU KNOW THAT JESUS IS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD.**

**C** **COMMIT TO BEING PREPARED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN IN AGE-SUITABLE WAYS.**

This guide can be a valuable tool that gives you confidence and affirmation in how to talk with boys and girls about becoming a Christian. Use the “How to Become a Christian” section as a quick and simple reference when sharing the gospel.

**A** **ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT CHILDREN AND BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.**

Read Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 19:14; and Mark 10:16. List the truths that these verses teach about children:

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One must realize that God cares greatly about children, but He does not have a separate plan for how an adult becomes a Christian and another plan for a child.

The Bible does not have a specific story about a child becoming a Christian. We do have the story of the child Timothy who learned the Scriptures that led to salvation, but we don’t know Timothy’s age. This underscores the truth that salvation has nothing to do with age but everything to do with accountability.

To help you understand a child’s spiritual journey, record your thoughts about these verses related to children and eternity:

- 2 Samuel 12:15-23 .....
- 1 Samuel 3:7 .....
- Matthew 18:1-14 .....
- Romans 14:12 .....

**B** **BE SURE THAT YOU KNOW JESUS IS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD.**

Review your salvation experience.

How old were you when you became a Christian?

Where were you at the time?

Who was instrumental in leading you to Christ?

What do you remember most vividly about your conversion experience?

**C** **COMMIT TO BEING PREPARED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN IN AGE-SUITABLE WAYS.**

Children arrive at the point of accountability at different ages depending on their life experiences and how they learn best. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 reminds us that parents are the primary teachers of children. Parents help children in their spiritual journey of learning from the Bible about God and Jesus as they rise up in the morning, walk by the way, and lie down at night.

When a child is under conviction about the need to be forgiven of sin and the need to develop a personal relationship with God, he will continually ask questions related to becoming a Christian. This conversation will be more than just the simple questions like, “When can I get baptized?” and “When can I take the Lord’s Supper?” As a child reaches the point of accountability and conviction, include these questions as you talk with the child.

- What is sin?
- Who is Jesus?
- What did Jesus do?
- Why did Jesus come to earth?
- Why should you become a Christian?
- How can you receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

## TIPS FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN:

We sometimes share the gospel with groups in church settings. Consider these tips:

- \* Consistently remind children that you are available at any time to talk about Jesus and becoming a Christian or to talk and to pray together.
- \* Determine ahead of time the ages of the children who will be included in group settings where the gospel will be shared.
- \* Keep it brief. Children have limited attention spans.
- \* Consider using a response card for an invitation instead of a “show of hands” to lower peer pressure.
- \* Have a follow-up plan. Read together Hebrews 13:5b and 1 John 1:9 in the child’s Bible and underline them. Talk about how Jesus will never leave her, and even though she is a Christian, there will be times when she makes wrong choices. God will always forgive her.
- \* Always encourage a child to talk with his parents/ caregiver about his decision to become a Christian.

# Tips

## IN TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT BECOMING A CHRISTIAN:

- \* Ask a child open-ended questions, not "yes" or "no" questions. Children can often tell by the inflection of your voice what the answer to a "yes" or "no" question is supposed to be. Open-ended questions help a child open up his heart and mind to you.
- \* Remain conversational, not confrontational.
- \* Never jump to conclusions, and avoid symbolic language.
- \* Make the distinction between becoming a Christian, getting baptized, and taking the Lord's Supper.
- \* Encourage the child to answer the questions rather than you as the adult giving away the answers. Rephrase the question if a child has difficulty answering it.
- \* Use a Bible translation that is comfortable for you and the child.
- \* Encourage the child to write down when, where, and how he became a Christian; what he prayed; and the truths he knows about what God did because of what he prayed. Guide the child to date and sign this note.



# How to Become a Christian



**ADMIT TO GOD THAT YOU ARE A SINNER. THE FIRST PEOPLE GOD CREATED CHOSE TO SIN AND DISOBEY GOD. EVER SINCE THEN, ALL PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN TO SIN AND DISOBEY.**

\* Romans 3:23–Underline this verse in your Bible.

**REPENT, TURN AWAY FROM YOUR SIN.**

\* Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9–Underline these verses in your Bible.



**BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD'S SON AND ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF FORGIVENESS FROM SIN.**

\* Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9–Underline these verses in your Bible.



**CONFESS YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD.**

\* Romans 10:9-10,13–Underline these verses in your Bible.

\* If the child is ready, he can pray a prayer like this to God:

*God,*

*I know I have sinned and my sin separates me from You. I am sorry for my sin. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me so my sin can be forgiven. I believe Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. God, please forgive me. I ask Jesus to come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. I will obey You and live for You the rest of my life. Thank You.*

*In Jesus' name I pray,*

*Amen*

Becoming a Christian is the most important decision anyone can ever make. Read in your Bible what God's Word says about becoming a Christian.

**GOD LOVES YOU.**

Write out the words of John 3:16:

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**SIN IS CHOOSING YOUR WAY INSTEAD OF GOD'S WAY. SIN SEPARATES PEOPLE FROM GOD. SIN SEPARATES YOU FROM GOD.**

Write out the words of Romans 3:23:

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**THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN IS DEATH (ROMANS 6:23). GOD SENT JESUS SO YOU WOULD NOT HAVE TO DIE FOR YOUR SIN. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS. HE WAS BURIED, AND HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.**

Write out the words of Romans 5:8:

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