

© How to Lead Your Child to Christ

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER AHEAD OF TIME:

1. Realize that God is more concerned about your child's eternal destiny and happiness than you are. "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise.... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).
2. Pray specifically beforehand that God will give you insights and wisdom in dealing with each child on his or her maturity level.
3. Don't use terms like "take Jesus into your heart," "dying and going to hell," and "accepting Christ as your personal Savior." Children are either too literal ("How does Jesus breathe in my heart?") or the words are too clichéd and trite for their understanding.
4. Deal with each child alone and don't be in a hurry. Make sure he or she understands. Discuss. Take your time.

A FEW CAUTIONS:

1. When drawing children to Himself, Jesus said for others to "allow" them to come to Him (see Mark 10:14). Only with adults did He use the term "compel" (see Luke 14:23). Do not compel children.
 2. Remember that unless the Holy Spirit is speaking to the child, there will be no genuine heart experience of regeneration. Parents, don't get caught up in the idea that Jesus will return the day before you were going to speak to your child about salvation and that it will be too late. Look at God's character—He *is* love! He is not dangling your child's soul over hell. Wait on God's timing.
Pray with faith, believing. Be concerned, but don't push.
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THE PLAN:

1. **God loves you.** Recite John 3:16 with your child's name in place of "the world."
2. **Show the child his or her need of a Savior.**
 - a. Deal with sin carefully. There is one thing that cannot enter heaven—sin.
 - b. Be sure your child knows what sin is. Ask him to name some (things common to children—lying, sassing, disobeying, etc.). Sin is doing or thinking anything wrong according to God's Word. It is breaking God's Law.
 - c. Ask the question "Have you sinned?" If the answer is no, do not continue. Urge him to come and talk to you again when he does feel that he has sinned. Dismiss him. You may want to have prayer first, however, thanking God "for this young child who is willing to do what is right." Make it easy for him to talk to you again, but do not continue. Do not say, "Oh, yes, you have too sinned!" and then name some. With children, wait for God's conviction.
 - d. If the answer is yes, continue. He may even give a personal illustration of some sin he has done recently or one that has bothered him.
 - e. Tell him what God says about sin: We've all sinned ("There is no one righteous, not even one," Rom. 3:10). And because of that sin, we can't get to God ("For the wages of sin is death . . ." Rom. 6:23). So He had to come to us (" . . . but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord," Rom. 6:23).
 - f. Relate God's gift of salvation to Christmas gifts—we don't earn them or pay for them; we just accept them and are thankful for them.
3. **Bring the child to a definite decision.**
 - a. Christ must be received if salvation is to be possessed.
 - b. Remember, do not force a decision.
 - c. Ask the child to pray out loud in her own words. Give her some things she could say if she seems unsure. Now be prepared for a blessing! (It is best to avoid having the child repeat a memorized prayer after you. Let her think, and make it personal.)*

d. After salvation has occurred, pray for her out loud. This is a good way to pronounce a blessing on her.

4. Lead your child into assurance.

Show him that he will have to keep his relationship open with God through repentance and forgiveness (just like with his family or friends), but that God will always love him ("Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you," Heb. 13:5).

* If you wish to guide your child through the prayer, here is some suggested language.

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner [have child name specific sins he or she acknowledged earlier, such as lying, stealing, disobeying, etc.]. I know that Jesus died on the cross to pay for all my sins. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I believe that Jesus died for me and rose from the dead, and I accept Him as my Savior. Thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Cumulative Topical Index

TOPIC	SCRIPTURE	WHAT YOU'LL NEED	WHERE TO FIND IT
The Acts of the Sinful Nature and the Fruit of the Spirit	Gal. 5:19-26	3x5 cards or paper, markers and tape	Book 1, p. 43
All Have Sinned	Rom. 3:23	Raw eggs, bucket of water	Book 2, p. 89
Bad Company Corrupts Good Character	1 Cor. 15:33	Small ball, string, slips of paper, pencil, yarn or masking tape, Bible	Book 1, p. 103
Be Thankful for Good Friends		Bible, art supplies, markers	Book 1, p. 98
Christ Is Who We Serve	Col. 3:23-24	Paper, scissors, pens	Book 1, p. 50
The Consequence of Sin Is Death	Ps. 19:1-6	Dominoes	Book 2, p. 57
Creation	Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:20	Nature book or video, Bible	Book 1, p. 17
David and Bathsheba	2 Sam. 11:1-12:14	Bible	Book 2, p. 90
Description of Heaven	Rev. 21:3-4, 10-27	Bible, drawing supplies	Book 2, p. 76
Don't Be Yoked with Unbelievers	2 Cor. 16:17-17:1	Milk, food coloring	Book 1, p. 105
Don't Give Respect Based on Material Wealth	Eph. 6:1-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Ps. 119:17; James 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:12	Large sheet of paper, tape, a pen, Bible	Book 1, p. 64
Evil Hearts Say Evil Words	Prov. 15:2-8; Luke 6:45; Eph. 4:29	Bible, small mirror	Book 1, p. 79
The Fruit of the Spirit	Gal. 5:22-23; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20	Blindfold and Bible	Book 2, p. 92
God Allows Testing to Help Us Mature	James 1:2-4	Bible	Book 2, p. 44
God Created Us	Isa. 45:9; 64:8; Ps. 139:13	Bible and video of potter with clay	Book 2, p. 43
God Forgives Those Who Confess Their Sins	1 John 1:9	Sheets of paper, tape, Bible	Book 2, p. 58
God Gave Jesus a Message for Us	John 1:14, 18; 8:19; 12:49-50	Goldfish in water or bug in jar, water	Book 2, p. 66