

**HOW TO
LEAD YOUR
CHILDREN
TO CHRIST!**

SARAH BLOUNT

Leading your children to Christ is one of the most significant things you can do as a parent.

In this guide you'll find some helpful questions to pose to your children as you prepare to lead them to receive the gift of eternal salvation through Jesus and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. **You may be wondering what age is the right age to lead your children to Christ—there is no right age.** It's more about the readiness of each child's heart and their ability to comprehend the weight of their decision than it is about how many candles were on their last birthday cake.

PRE-SALVATION PRAYER QUESTIONS

Your children need to understand several key truths in order to put their faith in Jesus. **They need to realize they need a Savior**, and they need to understand the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection and what it means to live for Jesus. To ensure your children grasp those concepts, you can open a discussion about salvation by asking some or all of the following questions.

1. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS?

You can use *Romans 5:8*, *Matthew 27*, *Mark 15*, *Luke 23*, and/ or *John 19* to show your children what the Bible says about Jesus' death on the cross.

2. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS?

If your children are unable to explain the necessity of the cross, you can talk to them about sin separation. Here is a brief outline you can follow:

Did you know that before Jesus died on the cross, there was a big gap called “sin” that separated God’s people from Him? [See *John 14:6* and *1 Peter 3:18*.] Sin is when we miss the mark God has for us. Here’s an example of sin: God has commanded us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. If we lie, cheat, or steal from our neighbor, we miss the mark. Can you think of a time when you have sinned? [Parents, consider sharing an age-appropriate time when you sinned.]

We all sin [*Rom. 3:23*], and our sin separates us from God. That breaks God’s heart because He wants to be near us! We are His family! He knew He needed to give us a way to get sin out of our lives and to bridge the gap between us and Him, and He decided that Jesus would be that bridge! [See *2 Corinthians 5:21* and *Philippians 3:8-9*.]

Jesus came to the earth as a little baby in the manger. He never sinned, not even once, and when He was thirty-three years old, He died on the cross. When He died, His blood spilled out, and His blood is the very thing God needed to wash away our sins. If Jesus hadn’t given His life for us on the cross, our sin would have separated us from God forever. [See *Ephesians 1:7* and *Hebrews 9:14, 22*.]

3. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS ROSE AGAIN AFTER DYING ON THE CROSS?

See *Matthew 28:5–6* and *Romans 10:9–10* for help discussing the fact that Jesus not only died on the cross but also rose again after being in the tomb for three days. Make sure your children understand that Jesus' resurrection was the sign that He won the victory over sin. It also proved that God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and that it was enough to wash away our sins so they would no longer separate us from God.

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT LOOKS LIKE TO GIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE TO JESUS?

It's important for your children to grasp that salvation is not a decision that only affects where they will spend eternity; it's also meant to affect each day they spend here on earth for the rest of their lives. Tell your children that giving Jesus their life means they are deciding to follow Him and His ways. You can say,

“Giving your life to Jesus is saying He is the King of your heart! You will no longer be the boss of your life; instead you are giving Jesus control.” Consider using *Matthew 6:33* and *Matthew 22:37* to discuss with your children the importance of giving God their whole heart.

5. DID YOU KNOW THAT TODAY IF YOU SAY WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU ARE WELCOMED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD?

You can tell your children the following: *Romans 10:9-10* says if you say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will live with Jesus in heaven forever. God will be your Father. Jesus will be your Brother. And the Holy Spirit will be your Friend. Mom will be your sister in Christ, and Dad will be your brother in Christ! You won't just be part of this family; you will be part of the family of God!

6. DO YOU WANT TO GIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE TO JESUS?

If your children answer yes, lead them in the salvation prayer by having them repeat the following, or something similar, after you.

AFTER YOUR CHILDREN SAY AMEN

Celebrate! Hug, laugh, cry, have cake, and rejoice! After all, this is the greatest and most significant moment of their lives. Let them know how proud you are of them, how happy Jesus is to begin a relationship with them, and that the angels in heaven are celebrating too!

POST-SALVATION QUESTIONS

After your children have accepted Christ, use the following questions to ensure they understand what happens next.

1. DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE MADE UP OF THREE PARTS?

You can tell your child the following: You are a spirit. Your spirit lives in your body. And you have a mind—that's where your thoughts and feelings come from. [See *1 Thessalonians* 5:23.]

Just now, when you prayed, something incredible happened to your spirit! Your spirit was made new. Your old spirit died, and a new spirit was born. And the new spirit that was born is perfect. You get a fresh start, and all of your sins are washed away. [See *2 Corinthians* 5:17–20.] Your new spirit can never die. When your body dies, your spirit is what goes to heaven! [See *John* 3:16.]

But what about your body? Does it look new? No, you didn't get a new body. You'll get a new body in heaven.

What about your mind? Do you feel different? Does it seem like you have different thoughts? No, you didn't get a new mind.

Your spirit is perfect right now, but your mind and body are being made perfect. [See *Hebrews 10:14*.] In other words, you will still make mistakes even though your spirit is new, but the blood of Jesus has washed away every sin—all your past sins and every sin you will ever commit in the future. We don't have to live a perfect life to get into heaven, because Jesus lived a perfect life for us. [See *Ephesians 2:8-9*.] He made your spirit perfect forever. You can't mess up His perfect gift of a perfect spirit!

2. DO YOU THINK THAT BECAUSE JESUS HAS TAKEN CARE OF ALL OUR FUTURE SINS, WE SHOULD SIN WHENEVER WE WANT AND DO WHATEVER WE WANT?

You can share with your child the following: Jesus gave His life to free us from sin. Sin slows us down, hurts us, and stops us from living the way God wants us to live. Just because Jesus has already washed away our future sins doesn't mean we have a license to sin. We should not fall back into a trap Jesus paid for us to get out of. Having the blood of Jesus covering our sins means we get to live a life that honors God every day in every way. [See *1 Peter 4:1-2*.] When you do sin, tell God you're sorry that you hurt His heart, and He will help you move on. [See *1 John 1:8-10*.]

3. SINCE YOU RECEIVED A BRAND-NEW SPIRIT, WHAT KIND OF THINGS DO YOU THINK WOULD HELP YOUR SPIRIT GROW?

Give your children some helpful hints Here are a few ideas: Read the Bible to make your thoughts new, go to church, and spend time talking to God each day through prayer. Just like a new baby needs food to grow, your new spirit needs food! [See *Matthew 4:4*; *Romans 12:2*; *1 Thessalonians 5:17*; *1 Timothy 4:7*; *Hebrews 10:25*; and *James 5:16*.]

LEADING YOUR CHILD TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is for kids too! Use the following questions to lead your children in understanding how the Holy Spirit helps us and how to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE HARD TO KEEP FROM SINNING?

2. WOULD YOU LIKE JESUS TO WALK WITH YOU AND HELP YOU EVERY DAY?

3. DID YOU KNOW THAT BEFORE JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN, HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE WAS SENDING A HELPER FOR US?

Tell your children the following:

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit—a helper who could live inside every person with a new spirit. He is someone who could help us obey, teach us things about the Bible, comfort us, and let us know when we are on the right track or when we are on the wrong track. Jesus wants you to have the Holy Spirit living inside you to be your Helper every single day. He also will give you the boldness to resist temptation to sin, and to tell others about Jesus. [See *John 14:15–27* to discuss with your child what the Holy Spirit does for us.]

4. WOULD YOU LIKE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE YOUR HELPER?

If he or she says yes, have your child repeat the following prayer after you:

PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus, I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit to help me obey You and to do Your will for the rest of my life.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

If you would like to go further and teach your children about the gifts the Holy Spirit gives, read *1 Corinthians 12*.

Lastly, children hear what you say, but they believe what you do. As you are one of the greatest influencers in your child's life, may they see you taking up your cross and living a life that honors God in every area!

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