

HOW TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST

Keep it simple and cover the 3 S's:

- Sinner – We must admit our sin and ask for forgiveness.
- Savior – Jesus is God's Son who lived perfectly but took our punishment for us when he died on the cross.
- Salvation – We receive salvation as a gift when we trust Jesus as our Savior, friend, and leader.

1. Be in prayer from beginning to end.

Remember a child's conversion or growth in faith is not in your power to give. It is God's gift. Keep your heart open to how the Holy Spirit is moving in the life of the child. Continue praying when the Lord gives you special opportunity to lead the child to him. **Matthew 9:38, John 6:44.*

2. Understand it's a relationship with God, and He has already been active!

Some children have been baptized and are growing in their understanding of Jesus as their Savior. **Acts 2:38.* Some children have had no exposure to the gospel, but God has led them to you!

3. Help the child see that God created and loves him/her.

It is because of God's love for us that he gave a rescue plan. Don't take God's love for granted or assume that everyone knows it. Be impressed with and impress others with the magnitude of God's love. **John 3:16-18; Jeremiah 31:3; Zephaniah 3:17.*

4. Help the child be convicted of his/her sin.

Before a child is ready for the gospel, the child needs to know the need to be forgiven. Before they can truly appreciate being restored to God, they need to know that their relationship to God is broken because of sin. Explain sin as those actions we do that are against what God wants us to do. Because all people sin, they need someone to take their sin away. Explain that Jesus gave his life on the cross to die for our sin. He took the punishment that each person's sin deserved. That punishment meant that he had to die. But he did not stay dead. He rose from the dead and now is alive. He tells us that if we trust him, he will take our sin away. **John 19:30; Romans 3:10-18 and 23-26; Acts 4:10b-12.*

5. Believe the Lord Jesus has paid the price for sin. Thank him and ask him to be the leader of your life.

This is the step of faith. Watch for the Holy Spirit's working in the child. Ask them if they would like to place their trust in Jesus. If they want to take this step of faith, the sample prayer will help the child in his/her understanding. **John 6:47, 20:28; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 1:7-9.*

Sample prayer:

Thank God for loving me so much. I know I am a sinner and there are many ways I have done wrong against you. I'm sorry for these sins. I need your forgiveness. Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross and taking my sin away. I place my trust in you. Come and live in my life. Let me follow you always. Amen.

*The Bible has both convicting power and assurance in its pages. Use the verses noted with students age seven and older. Let them see that Scripture is something they can stand on (Psalm 119:89-91) and believe.

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