

GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

Leading Your Kids to Christ: 30 Days to Prepare Your Heart

by Criswell Freeman

Provides parents with a thirty-day guide to leading their child to a personal relationship with Christ.

The Faith of a Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Salvation for Your Child

by Art Murphy

Designed to teach parents, grandparents, or anyone who works with children how to be equipped and confident in guiding them to a saving faith in Christ.

GOING FURTHER CHERRY STREET BAPTIST SUPPORT

Faith Path: Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ

This free kit is available for pick-up from the *Faith@Home Center* or download at (church site address). It includes a training video and other tools to help you gain confidence as you lead your child to faith.

Faith Path: Salvation and Baptism

This free kit is available for pick-up from the *Faith@Home Center* or download at (<https://mycsbc.com/faith-at-home/>). It includes a training video and other tools to help you gain confidence as you lead your child to follow the Lord in the next step of obedience.

CSBC|KIDS

CSBC offers a variety of programs that come alongside parents in their effort to instill faith in children including age-graded Sunday school classes, AWANA, camps, and much more. For more information, visit www.mycsbc.com/csbc-kids-sunday-school/.

INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST



Faith@Home



INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST

One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood.

That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to nurturing your child's faith. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the when and how of introducing them to Christ.

STEP ONE

Lay a Foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation through hearing the stories of the Bible, learning Scriptures, and singing about Jesus. Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home, watching your example, feeling your love, and learning right from wrong. These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 that says, *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."* Don't worry if your child hasn't grown up in church because your family is new to the faith. It is never too late to start.

STEP TWO

Discern Readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure they are ready in both heart and head and can truly understand the Gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually mature enough to make a commitment.

STEP THREE

Ask Questions

When you feel they are ready, ask a few questions to help gauge your child's level of understanding. Read Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Then ask questions like, *"What is sin?"* *"How does your sin affect your relationship to God?"* and *"How can you be right with God?"* How they respond can help you sense whether your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- **Jesus as Savior:** The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- **Jesus as Lord:** The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life.

If after reading through this information, you would like additional assistance, feel free to call the church office at 417-889-1999 to speak with a ministry staff member about how to help your child make the most important decision they could ever make.

STEP FOUR

Guide Your Child in Prayer for Salvation

Romans 10:9-10 tells us, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is and what it leads to, as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide your child to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it's best to prompt them to use their own words - to tell God they are sorry for their sins, to ask for His forgiveness, and to ask Him to be Lord over the rest of their life.

STEP FIVE

Prepare Them for Baptism

Once your child has understood and decided to accept God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, it is time to guide them toward following Christ in believer's baptism. Speak to a ministry staff member about scheduling a baptism date and prepare to celebrate this important step in your child's faith journey.