

SALVATION



CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR KIDS

This is an exciting time in a kid's life. They're starting to ask questions about faith. They're wondering about God and His love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—ones that don't have a simple answer. But that's okay. This is a starting point for your kid to begin a lifelong conversation about faith. If you're looking for a place to start, we suggest John 3:16. It lays the foundation for God's love for us that sent Jesus to be our savior.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

WHAT TO SAY:

GOD LOVED

- God loved you before you were even born. He created you in His Image. And He loves you right now. God has a plan for your life—like a story.
- But there is something that separates us from Him, something that keeps us from being with Him forever. It's called sin. Sin is the stuff we do wrong. Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us.
- On our own, we can't do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. And because God loves us, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.
- **ASK:** What is sin? Have you ever sinned? When? What is the problem with sin?

GOD GAVE

- God knew that our sin would keep us from living with Him forever. But because God loved us, He gave the most important, valuable, and perfect thing He had for you.
 - God gave His Son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for you to be with Him.
 - That's why Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again.
 - **ASK:** What did God give us? Why did God give this gift? What did Jesus do for us?
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WHOEVER BELIEVES IN JESUS

- When you receive a gift, what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift of salvation by believing Jesus died and rose again.
- Believing simply means to trust. It's a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight in it. You trust that it will hold you up. That's what it's like to believe in or to trust in this gift.
- To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.
- **ASK:** How can you take part in God's big story? What does it mean to trust in something? How do you know God loves you?

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

1. "Invite Jesus into your heart."

For kids, the phrase "inviting Jesus into my heart" can be confusing. They're such concrete thinkers that it can worry them to think that someone is living inside their actual heart.

2. "You have to pray like this . . ."

Kids are going to express their faith with how they understand it at their age. Don't get hung up on the "right words" but rather the heart with which they pray.

3. Any answers you make up

Don't make up answers to questions that you don't know yourself. "I don't know" is a legitimate answer to questions that your kids have about faith. There's so much that we don't understand about how God works and how the Holy Spirit enters our life. And that's okay.

Preparing for and having this conversation with your kids might raise some of your own. If so, don't hesitate to reach out to a ministry leader at your church to chat about these things further.

