

Faith



"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

LEADING YOUR CHILD TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

Faith is a gift from God alone and as parents we cannot give this gift or in anyway compel our children to believe. Rather, we have the great privilege and responsibility to gently lead our children to our Lord Jesus Christ. God calls us to participate with Him through praying for our child's salvation and presenting the Gospel message through our lives and our words.

How can I live a life that points to Jesus?

- Demonstrate your own trust and obedience. Your patient and confident trust in Jesus Christ has a great influence on your children. Let them see how you trust God as you pay your bills, and speak to your neighbors. Let them see your faith as you navigate through life's struggles, disappointments, and joys.
- Express your thanksgiving for all the many gifts that God has given. They will experience your understanding of God's love for them and His care.
- Let them in on your need for forgiveness. Let them see your own contrite heart and the joy and peace you experience in God's forgiveness.
- Teach them the Scriptures. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Romans 10:17. Sit with them and read the great Bible stories. Let them see you studying your Bible. Bring them to Sunday school and worship enthusiastically so that your child knows it's important. Speak to them about your motivations. Let them know that your words of kindness to the grumpy cashier, or obedience to the speed limit are based on your knowledge of God's Word, and your desire to obey.

How should I present the Gospel?

- Pray that you will hear and see the opportunities to speak with your child.
- Pray that God will enable you to listen clearly to His voice and as He prompts you to share the appropriate truth at the appropriate time.
- Use simple vocabulary when you speak to your child. Children think literally and often have trouble with symbolic phrases such as "taking Jesus into your heart" or "your sins have been washed in the blood of Jesus." Focus on God's love.

What are the essential truths my child must know?

God loves you and longs to have you with Him forever. (John 3:16)

We have all sinned, Mommy, Daddy, and even you. Sin causes us to die and to be separated from God. (Romans 6:23)

Jesus came and lived His whole life without ever doing something wrong! Even though He didn't sin, He died just like He would have if He did sin. He died for you, so that even though you have sinned, you wouldn't have to live apart from God forever. Jesus didn't stay dead, though. God is so powerful He brought Jesus back to life and because Jesus didn't sin He could go and live with God. (1 Corinthians 15:3,4)

If you ask Jesus, Jesus will cover up your sinful life with His good life so that you can live with God forever, too. But first, you must let Him know that you are sorry for the wrong things you have done, and would like to stop doing them. Then you can ask Him if he would cover up your sin with His goodness. (1 John 1:9)

With your sin covered by Jesus, you can live with God forever!

In presenting the Gospel, it is wonderfully helpful to know the verses by memory because in this way, you can easily insert the truth of the Gospel as the occasion arises. However, if a strong memory isn't an asset for you, take the time to mark the passages in parentheses in your Bible. God is faithful!