

Introducing Your Child To Christ

The fact you're reading this indicates you are concerned about your child's faith. 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. It's likely that you are reading this because, like many parents, you don't know quite how (or when) to go about introducing your child to Christ. Parents who worry that they don't have the training or understanding to lead their children to salvation may be tempted to just leave it to the "professionals"—to rely on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to influencing your child's path to salvation. 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 (hearing the stories of the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth) as well as experiencing life in your home (watching your example, feeling your love, 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 it in Deuteronomy: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Dt. 6:6-7).

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 and can truly understand the gospel. 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 in 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 in addition to helping your child apply the gospel to his or her own life.

STEP THREE: Guide your child in prayer for salvation

Romans 10 tells us, "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Romans 10:9-10). 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 FOUR: 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. Schedule them to attend a Young Christians class where they will learn the basics of Christian faith and be prepared to celebrate baptism with their family.

帶領兒女信主

你選讀這篇文章，表示你很關心孩子的信心。然而，當你提供孩子每天的生活需要，以便幫助他或她的一生成功的同時，卻沒有什麼比關心你孩子屬靈上的需求，並且幫助他們得到永恆的生命更重要了。也許，和許多家長一樣，你讀此篇文章是因為你不太知道如何或者應該什麼時候讓你的孩子認識基督。父母會擔自己沒有接受訓練或有知識 帶領他們的孩子接受救恩，因而將此責任交給所謂的“專業人士”——就是依賴教會的人或者是所舉辦的福音活動，這是可以理解的。但是在孩子得到救恩的道路上，神已讓你成為一個最重要且最有影響力的角色，你所需要的是一點點的訓練，好讓你在帶領他們什麼時候及如何認識基督的事上更有自信。

第一步：奠定根基

孩子決定跟隨耶穌不是一蹴可及的。你的兒子或女兒需要增進對神的認識，一方面要以循序漸進的方式來奠定根基（聽聖經故事、學習經文、唱兒童聖詩等等），另一方面要從你的家庭生活來經歷人生（學習你的榜樣、感受你的愛、學習對與錯）。這兩種學習方式因為和你的家庭連接，而且也融入了你的家庭生活，因此，所得的效果也最大。在申命記我們看到這樣的教導：“我今日所吩咐你的話，都要記在心上。也要殷勤教訓你的兒女，無論你坐在家裡、行在路上、躺下、起來、都要談論。”（申 6:6-7）。

第二步：分辨適當時機

你需要盡量觀察孩子是否已經成熟到有能理解世事。避免給他或她太快的壓力，要確定他們已經準備好，並能真正了解什麼是福音。當你覺得他們已經準備好，可以問幾個問題，以便衡量孩子的理解能力。你可以與孩子一起閱讀羅馬書 6:23：“因為罪的工價乃是死，惟有神的恩賜、在我們的主耶穌基督裡、乃是永生。”然後問以下的問題，例如，“什麼是罪？”“為何你的罪會影響你與神的關係？”和“你怎樣做才可以討神的喜悅？”他們如何回答當可幫助你了解你的孩子是否已經準備好，進而幫助你的孩子將福音應用到他或她自己的生活。

第三步：藉著禱告引導你的孩子得救恩

羅馬書告訴我們：“...你若口裡認耶穌為主，心裡信神叫祂從死裡復活，就必得救。因為人心裡相信，就可以稱義。口裡承認，就可以得救。”（羅 10:9-10）。你可以和孩子用這段經文一起禱告，如果你感到孩子對罪已經有了基本的認識，知道它會導致什麼樣的後果，並且了解接受神給他這份救恩的禮物，及接受神做他主宰的真正意義，就不要只是讓你的孩子重複那段經文，而是要帶領他們用自己的話告訴神，他為自己所犯的過錯認罪，祈求神的饒恕，並且求神做他們一生的主。

第四步：帶領他們受洗

一旦你的孩子願意並且決定藉著耶穌基督，接受神所賜的救恩，就應該帶領他們因跟隨基督而受洗。為他們安排參加初信造就的課程，以便加強他們的信心，同時和主內的家人一起慶祝。