

How to Lead a Child to Christ

We believe that children are best influenced in their faith when parents and the church work together to teach kids about Jesus. We hope this resource is helpful as you disciple your children to come to know Jesus as their Savior and become faithful followers of Him. It's an honor and privilege to partner together for the Kingdom.

A good verse to explain the plan of salvation is John 3:16. With the Holy Spirit as your guide, you are totally equipped to share the Gospel with your child.

Read John 3:16 together.

We have broken it up into 4 parts for a child's understanding:

God Loved, God Gave, We Believe, We Receive

God Loved: "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

- **How do you know God loves you? Review John 3:16**

- **What is sin? "Anyone...who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." James 4:17**

Transition by saying, "God loved you before you were born (Psalm 139:13-16). He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from Him. It's called sin. (Romans 3:23) It's the stuff we do wrong against God. Because God is perfect, there is no way we can get into God's family on our own. Our sin separates us from God. But because God loved, He had a plan for us."

God Gave: "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

- **What did God give us? Review John 3:16 Who is Jesus? "Jesus answered. 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" John 14:6**

Transition by saying, "God gave the most important, valuable and perfect thing He had for you. He knew that our sin would keep us out of His family forever. We're apart from God and would stay that way, but because God loved, He gave His Son to fix that relationship. Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. He came to make a way for you to be in God's family."

We Believe: "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 **What does it mean to believe in something?**

- Say, "When someone gives you a gift, what do you do? You receive it – you open it. God said you could open His gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus. Believing simply means to trust. To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and live in the truth that He died for you. "

We Receive: "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

What do we receive when we believe in Jesus Christ?"

After they respond, say "John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. That means we get to spend forever and ever with God in a place that He made perfect. We also have Him in our life on earth to lead and guide us in everything we do. And once you receive this gift, it can never be taken away. There is nothing you can do to lose your place in God's family!"

Do you want to receive the gift of Jesus into your life?

THE PRAYER (You can use this sample prayer with the child as you lead them to trust Christ – it’s also a good idea to have your child pray in their own words too, it will give you insight to their understanding and if there is any clarity that you may need to provide)

“Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for loving me. I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I know my sins separate me from YOU forever. I believe your Son, Jesus, died for me. Thank you for loving me and for giving the gift of Jesus so I could be forgiven and live with you in heaven. I want Jesus to come into my life and be my Savior and friend. I want to follow Him and obey Him. In Jesus’ name, Amen”

Remember:

- We are not saved by reciting a prayer.
- We are saved by putting our trust in Christ as our Savior.
- Saying this prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Christ for all He has done on our behalf.
- Transformation is an ongoing process and we can partner together providing your child with environments where they encounter Jesus and learn to follow Him.

If your child prays this prayer, celebrate with him/her. It is also a perfect time to pray a **prayer of parental blessing** over them. There are some examples of parental blessing prayers on www.grovekids.com under “Parent Resources”

Please let the GroveKids Leadership know if you have the joy and privilege of praying this prayer with your child.

We would love to celebrate and pray for your child as well!