

SALVATION

PARENT CONVERSATION GUIDE ...for kids

Your kids may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—questions that you may struggle with yourself, or questions that may not have a simple answer. But that's okay. This is a starting point for a life-long conversation about faith. We suggest starting with **John 3:16**:

“For God so LOVED the world that he GAVE his one and only Son. Anyone who BELIEVES in him will not die but will have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV).

WHAT TO SAY

1. GOD LOVED

God loved you before you were even born. And He loves you right now.

But there is something that separates us from Him. It's called sin. It's all the thoughts, actions, & struggles that keep 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 loved us, He did just that and made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

ASK . . .

What is sin?

Have you ever sinned?

What is the problem with sin?

2. GOD GAVE

Because God loved us, He gave His son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for you to be in God's story.

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?

3. WHEN WE BELIEVE

When you receive a gift what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift by believing.

Believing simply means to *trust*.

To open the gift that God gave you, you tell Jesus that you trust Him with your whole life and believe that He died and rose again for you.

ASK . . .

What does it mean to trust in something?

How do you know God loves you?

What is it we have to believe to receive this gift from God?

WHAT NOT TO SAY

1. “INVITE JESUS IN 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 the way they understand it at their age. Don't get hung up on the “right words” but rather the heart with which they pray.

3. MADE UP ANSWERS

Don't make up answers to questions you don't know yourself. “I don't know” is a legitimate answer to questions your kid has 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.

