

Introducing
Your
**Child to
Christ**



HomeLife

Building your family's faith at home

— **Guides** —

Introducing Your Child to Christ

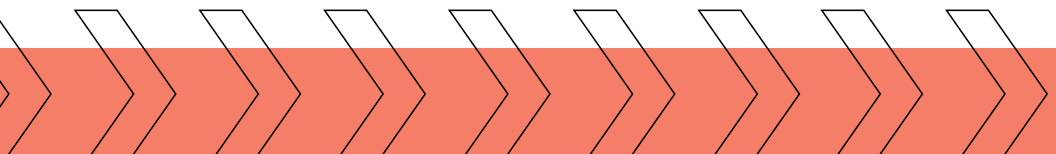
> *One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your children come to faith in Christ. As you care for your children's daily needs and work to prepare them for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood.*

Step 1 Lay a Foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Children grow in their understanding of God by developing a foundation, hearing the stories of the Bible, learning Scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth. Children also learn by experiencing life in the home, watching their parents' example, feeling their love, learning right from wrong. These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in the home and integrated into family life. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6–7: "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." Don't worry if your children haven't grown up in church because your family is new to the faith. It is never too late to start.

Step 2 Discern Readiness

Do your best to discern when your children are mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push them too fast, making sure they are ready in both heart and head and can truly understand the Gospel. Your children may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually mature enough to make a commitment.



Step 3 Ask Questions

When you feel they are ready, ask a few questions to help gauge your children'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 such as, "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 children are ready to understand two important concepts:

- **Jesus as Savior:** The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin, made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross.
- **Jesus as Lord:** The need to submit to God as Lord by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life.

If you would like additional assistance, request an appointment for you and your child to meet with a minister or staff member by visiting KIDZ Central at your campus or online at prestonwood.org/kidz.

Step 4 Guide Your Children 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 children have 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 them to pray along those lines.

Step 5 Prepare Them for Baptism

Once your children have 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 a baptism date and prepare to celebrate this important step in your children's faith journey.

Going Further *Resources*

Leading Your Kids to Christ: 30 Days to Prepare Your Heart by Criswell Freeman // Provides parents with a 30-day guide to leading their child to a personal relationship with Christ

The Faith of a Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Salvation for Your Child by Art Murphy // Designed to teach parents, grandparents or anyone who works with children how to be equipped and confident in guiding them to a saving faith in Christ

Going Further *Prestonwood Support*

Faith Path: Prepare to Lead Your Children to Christ & Salvation and Baptism // These kits are available for download or pick-up from the campus HomeLife Center. They include a training video and other tools to help you gain confidence as you lead your children to faith. Go to prestonwood.org/homelife.

New Christians Class (Grades 1-5) // This three-week class for children who have made a profession of faith helps them to establish a strong foundation and to prepare them to follow the Lord in baptism. Parents attend the first and last sessions with their children and are welcome to attend all sessions. Register online at prestonwood.org/kidz or call 972-820-5282 to register.

For additional resources, scan code:



Dr. Jack Graham, Senior Pastor
972-820-5000 | prestonwood.org/homelife