

SALVATION

1. Who is Jesus? (Matthew 3:16-17)

This is an easy question to answer and will get your child comfortable with the discussion. The answer should be pretty simple - "He is God's Son."

2. What is sin? Have you ever sinned? (Romans 3:23)

Younger kids may not understand the word sin yet, but in Kidspoint, we teach that sin is anything we do that disobeys God or the Bible. Some examples we talk to the kids about are lying, not respecting their parents, being mean to their friends, etc. Talk about these things with your child to help them realize that we all sin. Talking about things that you've done wrong and how that hurts your friendship with God is a great way to help your child understand this concept. Ultimately, you're looking for your child to identify specific things that they do wrong.

3. How does your sin affect your friendship with God? (Isaiah 59:2)

This is one of the most important concepts your child should understand in order to be fully aware of his or her salvation decision. When he or she understands that their sin separates them from God, they understand why they need to be saved!

Note: If you don't feel like your child understands either what sin is or how it affects his or her relationship with God, we suggest that you simply end the discussion for now. Let your child know that you're excited to continue talking to him or her more about salvation over the next few weeks. Revisit the topic together frequently.

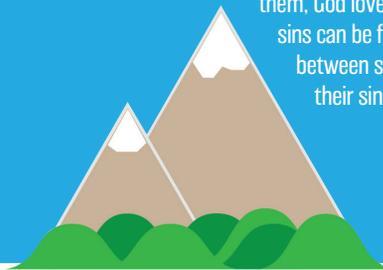
4. What did Jesus do on the cross? Why did He have to die? (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 6:23)

Again, these responses should be simple - "Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose again three days later" or "Jesus died for my sins so I could be forgiven". It may be helpful to talk with your child about punishments - when we do something wrong, we usually have to face the punishment for that action. The Bible says the punishment for our sin is death, but Jesus took that punishment for us. Because He lived a sinless life and took the punishment of sin upon Himself by dying on the cross, we get a chance to have eternal life in Heaven with Him forever!

5. What happens to our sin when we ask God to forgive us and we say (or confess) our sins out loud? (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 8:12)

Most responses will be very straightforward - "Jesus takes away/forgives our sins."

Note: Many children are worried about confessing their sins to God because they connect confession with getting in trouble. Help your child understand that just like you love and forgive them, God loves them even more and because of His love and grace our sins can be forgiven. Also, make sure your child knows the difference between saying "I'm sorry" and truly repenting (turning away from their sin and trying not to do it again).



After discussing these questions, if you feel your child understands what it means to accept God's gift of salvation, then ask if he or she wants Jesus to be the Lord and leader of his or her life. If yes, then great - this is the best part! You can prompt your child to use his or her own words to apologize for their sin, ask for forgiveness, and invite Jesus to be their Lord. Or you can guide your child in a simple prayer like the one below. Tell your child you'd like to help by praying this together and then have him or her repeat each line after you:

"Dear Jesus, I am a sinner and I need You to save me. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Because of this, I am forgiven and I can have a friendship with You. When You rose from the grave, You proved You were trustworthy. I want to trust my life to You. I want You to be the leader of my life. Help me live my life for You. Amen."

Congratulations! You've just led your child into a relationship with Jesus and the angels in Heaven are celebrating right now (Luke 15:7)! There are few experiences as valuable as this and it is certainly one to be celebrated! The next steps are very important - go with your child to pick up a New Believer Packet from Kidspoint and look through it together. Encourage your child to read their Bible daily and discuss water baptism with him or her soon.



We want to equip you to lead your child through the most important decision of his or her life - salvation! It can be tempting to push a child towards this decision too quickly, so we've come up with a list of five questions to help you discern your child's understanding of the Gospel and readiness to ask Jesus into his or her heart. The main goal is to identify if your child recognizes that their own sin separates them from God and that Jesus' death on the cross reunites them with God again. We recommend that after you ask each question, you also read through the suggested verses together.

