
SHARING JESUS WITH CHILDREN

a resource from



Dear Parent or Teacher,

As a leader of children, whether you are a parent or teacher, there is nothing more important than developing your skills to lead children into a relationship with Jesus.

We created this booklet with you in mind. We want you to feel confident in your approach to sharing the gospel with children.

This booklet is intended as a guide for your conversation with a child about the greatest message they could ever hear.

Thank you for your diligence and willingness to fulfill your God-given role as a spiritual leader for children!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

GJ Farmer
Children's Pastor
Cornerstone Baptist Church

How to Use this Booklet

Within this booklet, we have included an extended outline and a condensed outline. Read through the extended outline to learn what to say to children before you are actually presenting this to them. You will find it much easier to use the condensed outline (if necessary) when you are actually sharing with them.

There are 4 key components to using this booklet- ASK, SAY, READ, and DISCUSS.

ASK simply means to ask the child the question that follows. We have also supplied the answers.

SAY means to say what is written, either exactly how it is written or in your own words.

READ means to read something in the Bible.

DISCUSS means to have a conversation with the child about what is written.

We have also included tips within the extended outline to help you better navigate your way through the information when you are talking with the child.

Tips for Sharing Jesus with Children

- **Ask a child open-ended questions, not yes or no questions.** Children aim to please adults. If you ask them yes or no questions, they may be able to tell by your voice how you want them to answer. Asking open-ended questions will ensure they understand the information for themselves.
- **Use a Bible in a translation that's easily understood.** Reading straight from the Bible is important when telling children about Jesus because it shows them that what you are telling them is from God's Word. You will not find pre-printed verses in this guide for that reason. Reading from an electronic device is convenient, but it is not the best choice when reading to children. Try to read from a hard copy. When reading Bible

verses to children, try to read from a translation that is easily understood, if possible (ex: HCSB, NIV, or NLT).

- **Avoid abstract or symbolic language.** Most children are unable to think symbolically. Phrases such as “Asking Jesus into your heart,” “Jesus washes away your sins,” and “Jesus rose again” will only confuse children. Before you decide the words you will use, think about how a child may interpret it literally and if they are able to clearly understand what you mean.
- **Only counsel one child at a time.** When talking to a child you want to make certain that he or she understands the gospel and the decision that is required. If you counsel with a group of children, some of them may mimic the answers of the other children or only want to make decisions simply because their friends do. Counseling with one child at a time will help prevent these situations.
- **Don’t “scare” or “bribe” a child into making a decision.** Adults can easily persuade children. Children should not make salvation decisions just because they are afraid of hell or because they know it will make you proud of them. Be careful not to use language that would cause either of these situations.
- **Don’t force a child to make a decision.** If at any point while using this booklet the child doesn’t seem to understand the answers to the questions you are asking, proceed to give him or her the answers but do not allow for a decision. Instead, encourage them to keep learning more about Jesus and keep asking questions. Let them know you will be glad to talk to them more about this anytime. A child needs to understand these things before he or she can truly understand the commitment they are making.
- **If you are not the parent of the child, have the child’s parent(s) or guardian(s) present when/if the child makes a decision.** Salvation is not only a memorable decision for the child, but also for the entire family. For parents, seeing their child come to know Christ is the greatest event they could ever witness. If possible, parents should be included and perhaps lead in the process, and not simply told after the fact.

Sharing Jesus with Children- Extended Outline

1. We are not good.

ASK: What is sin?

- *Sin is anything we do that doesn't make God happy.*

READ: Romans 3:23a

DISCUSS: The Bible says everyone has sinned.

ASK: Can you tell me some sins that you have done?

- *Some common sins for children may be: Lying, disobeying parents, saying or thinking mean things, hurting another person.*

READ: Romans 3:23b

DISCUSS: We can't get to heaven on our own because of our sin. The only way we could get to heaven on our own is to be perfect and never sin.

ASK: Have you ever done chores or something to earn money?

- If yes, ask them to tell you what they did to earn the money.
- If no, explain to them how parents go to work to earn money for their families.

SAY: When we work at a job we earn money. What we earn is called a wage. Just like that, when we sin, the Bible says that we earn something, but its not money.

READ: Romans 6:23a

DISCUSS: Our sin earns us death. This doesn't just mean that we will die one day. The Bible also talks about when we die we will be punished and separated from God forever because of our sin in a place called Hell.



TIP: *Don't spend too much time talking about how bad Hell will be. This may only scare children into making a decision.*

SAY: God doesn't want to send anyone to Hell. He wants us to be with Him forever in Heaven so He sent His Son, Jesus, to the world to do something for us.

2. Jesus is good.

READ: Romans 6:23b

DISCUSS: God gave a great gift to us through His Son, Jesus.

ASK: Can you tell me who Jesus is and some of the things he did while he was on earth?

- Direct their conversation to get to the point where they say he died on a cross.

SAY: Yes, Jesus came and did many good things while he was here. He taught people, healed people, and loved people. He lived his whole life on earth without ever sinning once. He never did one bad thing.

ASK: We read a minute ago that our punishment for sin is death, but if Jesus never sinned then why did he have to die?

- For your sins (In particular, the sins he or she told you about earlier).



TIP: Don't rush the child to answer this question. Allow time for it to sink in that it was their sin that caused Jesus to die. This is usually the point when the child begins to realize how serious his or her sins are.

SAY: Jesus loved you so much that he took your punishment so that when you die God would not have to punish you in Hell.

ASK: What happened 3 days after Jesus died?

- He came back to life to show everyone that he is God and that we can trust what he says.

SAY: Just because Jesus died and came back to life doesn't mean that everyone automatically gets to go to heaven. You have to do 2 things first.

3. You must repent and trust Jesus.

SAY: God says the first thing you must do is repent.

READ: Acts 17:30

Discuss: Repent means to turn away from the sins that you do and begin to obey Jesus. You must be willing to stop doing those sins and love God more than anything.



TIP: Because repent is a “big word,” it may be beneficial to repeat with the child what the word means and have him or her say the meaning back to you (in his or her own words).

SAY: God says the second thing you must do is trust Jesus.

READ: Romans 10:9

Discuss: God wants us to tell everyone that we believe Jesus died for our sins and came back to life so we can be saved.

SAY: When you pray and ask God to help you obey Him, believe Jesus died and came back to life for your sins, and ask Jesus to save you, you can begin to follow Jesus as a Christian.

ASK: Would you like to pray and tell God those things today?

4. Make a Decision.

SAY: Pray in your own words and ask God to help you obey Him, and say that you believe Jesus died and came back to life for your sins, and ask Jesus to save you.



TIP: Make sure the child understands that he or she must really mean what they say to God.

PRAY: Guide the child to say a prayer out loud on his or her own. When children pray using their own words, it not only makes the decision more real for them, but it will also show you if they really understand the decision they are making. You may guide them by giving them some suggestions for praying before they begin, but try not to have them repeat words after you.

5. Follow Up.

If the child makes a decision:

If the child prays to become a Christian, congratulate him and let him know the importance of his decision.

Encourage the parents of the child to Contact Pastor GJ as soon as possible to schedule a follow-up meeting where the child will get a workbook to guide him in the next steps of being a Christian.

Pastor GJ's contact information:

Phone: (843) 395-1370

Email: GJFarmer@exit137.org

If the child doesn't make a decision:

Encourage the child to continue to learn as much about Jesus as possible and to keep asking questions. Let him know you, his parents, or teachers at church are available to answer any questions he may have.

Encourage the parents by telling them that it is a very good sign that their child is asking questions about becoming a Christian. Challenge them to stay faithful to tell their child about Jesus and continue bringing them to church. Make yourself and any other leaders of our children's ministry available to them should they need to talk anymore about their child's interest in becoming a Christian.

Sharing Jesus with Children- Condensed Outline

1. We are not good.

ASK: What is sin?

READ: Romans 3:23a

DISCUSS: The Bible says everyone has sinned.

ASK: Can you tell me some sins that you have done?

READ: Romans 3:23b

DISCUSS: We can't get to heaven on our own because of our sin. The only way we could get to heaven on our own is to be perfect and never sin.

ASK: Have you ever done chores or something to earn money?

SAY: When we work at a job we earn money. What we earn is called a wage. Just like that, when we sin, the Bible says that we earn something, but its not money.

READ: Romans 6:23a

DISCUSS: Our sin earns us death. This doesn't just mean that we will die one day. The Bible also talks about when we die we will be punished and separated from God forever because of our sin in a place called Hell.

SAY: God doesn't want to send anyone to Hell. He wants us to be with Him forever in Heaven so He sent Jesus to the world to do something for us.

2. Jesus is good.

READ: Romans 6:23b

DISCUSS: God gave a great gift to us through His Son, Jesus.

ASK: Can you tell me who Jesus is and some of the things he did while he was on earth?

SAY: Yes, Jesus came and did many good things while he was here. He taught people, healed people, and loved people. He lived his whole life on earth without ever sinning once. He never did one bad thing.

ASK: We read a minute ago that our punishment for sin is death, but if Jesus never sinned then why did he have to die?

SAY: Jesus loved you so much that he took your punishment so that when you die God would not have to punish you in Hell.

ASK: What happened 3 days after Jesus died?

SAY: Just because Jesus died and came back to life doesn't mean that everyone automatically gets to go to heaven. You have to do 2 things first.

3. You must repent and trust Jesus.

SAY: God says the first thing you must do is repent.

READ: Acts 17:30

Discuss: Repent means to turn away from the sins that you do and begin to obey Jesus. You must be willing to stop doing those sins and love God more than anything.

SAY: God says the second thing you must do is trust Jesus.

READ: Romans 10:9

Discuss: God wants us to tell everyone that we believe Jesus died for our sins and came back to life so we can be saved.

SAY: When you pray and ask God to help you obey Him, believe Jesus died and came back to life for your sins, and ask Jesus to save you, you can begin to follow Jesus as a Christian.

ASK: Would you like to pray and tell God those things today?

4. Make a Decision.

SAY: Pray in your own words and ask God to help you obey Him, and say that you believe Jesus died and came back to life for your sins, and ask Jesus to save you.

PRAY: Guide the child to say a prayer out loud on his or her own.

5. Follow Up.

If the child makes a decision:

- Congratulate child.
- Encourage parents to follow-up with Pastor GJ.

Pastor GJ's contact information:

Phone: (843) 395-1370

Email: GJFarmer@exit137.org

If the child doesn't make a decision:

- Encourage the child to continue to learn as much about Jesus as possible and to keep asking questions.
- Encourage the parents by telling them that it is a very good sign that their child is asking questions about becoming a Christian. Challenge them to stay faithful to tell their child about Jesus and continue bringing them to church.



2930 Masters Way
Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 395-1370
www.exit137.org
www.facebook.com/exit137