



# HOME POINT

INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST



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# Introducing Your Child to Christ

As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs – and helping them become rooted in the faith and prepared for eternity. It's likely that you are reading this because, like many parents, you don't know quite how (or when) to go about introducing your child to Christ. Parents who worry that they don't have the training or understanding to lead their children to salvation may be tempted to just leave it to the "professionals" – to rely on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to influencing your child's journey of faith. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the "when" and "how" of introducing them to Christ.

## STEP ONE: Lay a foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation (hearing the stories of the Bible, singing about Jesus, going to church and Sunday school) as well as experiencing life in your home (watching your example, feeling your love, and learning right from wrong). These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. We see it in Deuteronomy: *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.* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

## STEP TWO: Discern readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure they are ready and can understand the gospel. If you've been diligent in sharing your faith with

your child and making your relationship with God a visible part of your life, it will be a natural progression for your child to want to know more. Listen to questions and answer them honestly.

## STEP THREE: Guide your child 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 child has a basic understanding of this and what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide your child to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it's best to prompt them to use their own words to tell God they are sorry for their sins, to ask for His forgiveness, and to ask Him to be Lord over the rest of their life.

## STEP FOUR: Next Steps

Continue to help your child to grow in his or her faith. It's important to stay involved or get more involved in church activities, worship, read the Bible, and pray regularly as a family and in their own personal lives. Find a way to document and celebrate any moments of decision that your child makes to follow Christ. You might record a date or prayer in a Bible and sign it together. Share the news with family, friends, and church leaders. Most importantly, encourage your child in these four areas: Bible study, worship attendance, prayer, and service to others. How does this happen?

By modeling how to study, worship, pray and serve. A child who observes a respected adult engaging in these activities will be more inclined to do likewise. You are your child's best role model.

