

Wee Can Know Jesus

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Proverb 22:6*

Sharing Christ with your child.

Who can understand the Gospel? Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

Amazingly enough, children may have the ability to grasp the message of salvation more readily than an adult.

Scripture commands us to share the Gospel with children: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

There are several foundational truths that are important for a child or adult to understand in order to receive Christ as their Savior from the punishment of their sins:

Who is God?

God is our creator. He made you and me.

God is love. He loves you and me.

God's home is in Heaven.

God is holy. He is perfect.

Other attributes of God can be taught.

God is the author of the Bible.

God is preparing a home in heaven for his children.

(A child's relationship with his/her parent is essential in the child's ability to trust a loving God. It is important for children to learn about trust and unconditional love from their earthly families. Ask God to give you the grace to be a godly example for your child.)

What is Sin?

Sin is the things you do, say or choose to think about that **disobeys God's Word** (for the older child include: or God's leading in your life.)

Share child-like examples of sin with your child such as lying, name-calling, and disobeying parents. (Age-appropriate pictures of children sinning will help the young child's comprehension.)

The Bible says "All have sinned".

You and I are sinners.

We are born with a "sinful want-to" (nature).

God must punish sin.

Sin separates us from God.

The punishment for sin is (death), (separation) or ("time-out" away) from God forever.

For the older child: All our good deeds cannot take away our sin problem.

Only God can save us from our sin problem.

Illustration: Do you like milk? What if I gave you a glass of milk and it had a stink bug in it. Would you drink it? It is only ONE bug. Just as one bug can ruin a whole glass of milk, one sin can ruin heaven.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God's son.

Jesus lived in heaven with God.

Jesus left heaven and came to earth and was born as a little baby.

He was once a child your age.

Jesus never sinned (disobeyed the Bible).

When Jesus grew up wicked men nailed Jesus to the cross.

Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins and mine.

Jesus died, he was buried and rose again (came back alive) on the third day.

After forty days Jesus went back to heaven and is waiting for those who want to believe in Him.

Illustration: When you disobeyed Mom or Dad, did anyone come and say, "Let me take your punishment for you?" That is similar to what Jesus did for you. He said, "Father, child's name can't take Your punishment for his sins (what he did wrong), I will take it for him so he will not have to."

Receiving Christ as Savior

Because children are very literal in their thinking, some terminology can be confusing for a child to understand. Terms like "ask Jesus in your heart" and "saved" can be misunderstood. Children can understand family relationship terms. A good verse to use when inviting a child to Christ is: John 1:12 NKJV " *But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God...*"

Show your child this promise from the Bible and place your child's name in the verse: "But as child's name received Him, to child's name He gave...etc."

To receive means to "accept" that Jesus took your punishment when he died for you on the cross.

By believing God's promise to be true and receiving Christ as Savior, you can become a child of God. Remember! God cannot break a promise!

When you become God's child it means that God's punishment for your sins (or the wrong things you do) are forgotten and you do not have to be separated from God. You are a part of God's forever family and can one day live with God in heaven.

Ask your child thought-provoking questions to make sure he understands.

Check your child's understanding about God, sin, what Jesus did, and trusting in Jesus as Savior. Once you are assured the child understands, remind the child that he can pray in his own words any time. He only has to do it once. He can use A-B-C to help him: Admit I have sinned, Believe when Jesus died and rose again, He took the punishment for my sins, Call on God to make me his child forever.

I Can Know

It is normal for a child to doubt their salvation when he sins. You can guide your in child assurance:

- Remind your child of God's promise in John 1:12.
- Teach your child Hebrews 13:5b "I will NEVER leave you, NOR forsake you."
- Teach your child that God can not break His promises.
- Mark the day and time your child prayed to receive Christ and celebrate that special day as his second birthday.

I Can Grow

Explain to your child that when he received Christ as Savior, he became a brand new baby in God's family. Just as babies drink milk and eat baby food to help them grow, the Bible teaches there are things that new Christians can do to help them grow in Christ:

Going to church

Reading the Bible

Obedying God's Word (*Baptism can be taught as obedience and also, for a witness to others...*)

Witnessing (telling) others about Jesus

Praying— (three types of prayers:)

Thank you prayers

Help prayers

Confession prayers (telling on yourself to God) Teach 1 John 1:9

Further teaching:

Many children will believe that once they receive Christ as Savior they will not have a sin problem again. For older children, it is helpful to explain the three parts to our sin problem:

God's punishment for sin: Separation from God forever [death]. (This is what Jesus took when he died on the cross. When you trust in God's promise, He takes your punishment and throws it into the deep sea and remembers it no more.)

The guilt of sin: When you sin after you become God's child, you will have a bad feeling inside. you will feel ashamed, this is called guilt. When you tell on yourself (confess) to God, he promises to forgive your sin and take that guilty feeling away too.

The consequences of sin: God took away His punishment when you believed in His promise; When you tell God you are sorry He takes away your guilt. But, you still have consequences when you disobey your parents or teachers. When you sin, you may receive some type of reaction or discipline. If your mother asks you to pick up your toys and you don't, she may send you to your room to help you learn to obey. If you hurt a friend they might become angry with you. God can help you through the consequence. The Bible says, "The Lord is my Helper" (Hebrews 13:6b).

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