SALVATION PATH

Choosing to follow Jesus is the most important decision a person will make. It's not one that a child should feel forced, guilted, or pressured to make before he or she is ready. Salvation invites us to more than a single moment of prayer—it's the journey of a growing relationship with God. So how can you support your child's curiosity around faith and what it means to follow Jesus? This resource can help you to share the gospel with your child.

GOD'S GOOD CREATION

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Then He made human beings in His image and breathed life into them. God created Adam and Eve to be in relationship with Him, to glorify and serve Him forever. God walked and talked with Adam and Eve. They were the children of God—the beginning of God's family. Creation was very good, and God ruled over everything (Genesis 1:1, 1:27, 2:7; Psalm 8:4–5; Luke 3:38; Romans 11:36).

THE SINFUL WORLD

But eventually Adam and Eve were tempted and disobeyed God. Sin entered the world and separated them from God and His good creation. Sin is anything humans think, say, or do that goes against God's perfect plan. Because we all sin, everyone is separated from God (Genesis 3; Isaiah 59; Romans 3:23, 5:12).

THE SINFUL WORLD	LIFE WITH GOD
Fear	Love and Hope
Guilt	Security
Shame	Honor
Weakness	Strength
Darkness	Light
Lost	Found
Chaos	Order
Sadness	Joy
Judgment	Grace
Sickness	Health
Brokenness	Wholeness
Slavery	Freedom

GOD'S PROMISE

When sin entered the world, God put a plan into motion: He promised to send a Savior through a particular family. This Savior—God's Son, Jesus—was born as a human to be with us. Jesus teaches us about life with God. He performs miracles and wonders, heals sick people, and makes people whole. He was tempted, like us, but He did nothing wrong and overcame sin. Because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven (Matthew 4; Mark 1:14; Luke 2–3; John 1).

JESUS' VICTORY

To fix the sin problem, Jesus gave His life and died on a cross. Three days later, Jesus came back to life. By rising from the dead, Jesus shows that He has defeated sin and death. He is bigger and more powerful. His death made the way for us to be saved from the power of sin and death. We can have eternal life together with Him (Matthew 27:32–28:20; Mark 15–16; Luke 23–24; John 19–20)!

LIFE WITH GOD

God invites us into His family! When we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and ask for God to forgive our sins, we begin a brand-new life with God through His gift of forgiveness. We can have a relationship with God because of His grace, not because of anything we have done. When we walk with God, He sends His Holy Spirit to live inside us. For now, the world still has pain, sadness, and sin, but the Holy Spirit guides, comforts, gives strength, and helps us to understand the Bible and hear from God (John 14; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8–9).

GOD'S PROMISE OF THE FUTURE

God promises that Jesus will come again. His victory over sin and death will become clear to everyone. There will be no more death, pain, sadness, sickness, or sin. God will make all things new—a new heaven and a new earth. All of God's children—everyone who chooses to follow Jesus—will live with Him forever. They will be in relationship with God forever, worshiping and glorifying Him (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; Revelation 21:1–4).

CREATION

God created the whole world. God loves all people and wants to have a relationship with us.

SEPARATION

Sin separates us from God. We all have sinned. We cannot fix the broken relationship without God's help.

JESUS

Jesus came to earth to show God's love. He defeated sin and death, and He alone can save us. Jesus is Lord, and He invites us to join God's family.

SALVATION

When you believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior, confess your sins, and receive God's gift of forgiveness of sins, you are saved. You are part of God's family and have a relationship with Him. God sends the Holy Spirit to comfort and teach you. One day, followers of Jesus will live with God forever.

Is your child ready to accept the invitation to be part of God's family? Pray with your child (or allow your child to pray!). If you're not sure what to say, you can use this prayer as a guide:

God, thank You for creating the world, and creating me. Thank You for wanting to have a relationship with me. I admit that I have sinned and I'm sorry for my sins. Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to earth for me so that I can be close with You and live with You forever. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Thank You that Jesus defeated the power of sin and death once and for all! I want to follow Jesus and be more like Him. Send the Holy Spirit to help me know that I am part of Your family and a child of God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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