

## Kids of Integrity (Focus on the Family Resource)

### Lead your child to Christ

Are you wondering how to explain God's amazing plan for salvation to your child? We've included here scripts for two simple presentations to help you cover the main points. There's one script suitable for younger children, and a more detailed version for older children.

As you prepare to discuss salvation with your child, here are a few things to keep in mind:

First, spend time in prayer asking:

- that the Holy Spirit would prepare your child
- that He would help you present the information clearly
- that He would give your child understanding
- and that He would convince your child of the truth of your words.

We recommend that you talk to each child alone, and don't rush through it. Use simple words your child will understand, and try to avoid phrases that might confuse your child, such as "invite Jesus into your heart." At the end, ask questions to make sure your child understands all that you have said.

Don't push your child to make a decision. Your child's salvation is a matter between the Holy Spirit and your child. The Holy Spirit must be the one who convinces your child of his or her sin, and need for salvation. As a result, you may need to revisit this conversation with your child several times. At the right time, the Holy Spirit will speak to your child.

#### ***Gospel presentation for younger children***

*To prepare, you will need to cut four shapes out of paper: a red heart, a black heart with white on the reverse, a cross, and a paper doll figure.*

Did you know that God knows everything about you? He knows what you ate for breakfast. He knows which toys you love to play with most. And He knows what makes you happy, and what makes you sad.

*(Note: Try to personalize this introduction as much as possible; for example, by naming what your child had for breakfast, their favourite toy, etc. Or use different ideas that will be meaningful to your child.)*

And guess what: God loves you very, very much!

*(Place the red heart before your child to represent God's love.)*

In fact, God loves you so much, He wants you to be His child!

But there's a problem.

You see, you and I, and everyone else in the world, are not like God. God is always good, but we choose to do bad things. We are selfish, we hurt others, we disobey, and do lots of other bad things God tells us not to do. (Romans 3:23)

In the Bible, all the wrong things we do are called "sin."

*(Place the black heart before your child and explain that it represents their sin.)*

Our sin does something sad to our friendship with God: it makes God seem far away, so we can't know Him very well.

*(Remind your child that the red heart represents God. Move it away from the black heart.)*

But listen to this: God thought of a solution! Because He loves us so much, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for all our sins.

*(Hold up the cross. Explain that it's the same shape as the cross that Jesus died on, taking the punishment for our sins.)*

Because of Jesus, all the wrong things you've ever done can be forgiven. God is just waiting for you to ask.

When we tell God that we believe Jesus died for us, and then ask God to forgive our sins, He forgives us right away. God's Word says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins." (1 John 1:9)

*(Place the cross between the red heart [God] and the black heart. Move the hearts to touch the cross. Turn the black heart over to the white side.)*

When God forgives you, He makes you His child – one of God's special family of people who believe in Jesus. (John 1:12)

Once you are a part of God's family, you can talk to Him every day and be close to Him. You can also look forward to living with God forever in heaven.

*(Show your child that the cross makes a bridge to join the white heart with the red heart. Have the paper doll walk across the bridge made by the cross.)*

**Here's how to ask to become God's child:**

Admit that you need to be forgiven for your sins.

Thank God that Jesus died to save you.

Ask God to forgive you and help you turn away from wrongdoing.

Thank God that Jesus will be with you forever.

**Recommended resources**

*Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children* (Paperback). Tyndale House, 2003.