

Conversation Guide for Parents and Leaders

SAY YES!

In elementary school, kids are fascinated with life. They are discovering new experiences, new ideas and they want someone to discover it with them.

Being present is the most important thing you can do for a kid. They're looking at the world around them, the things they've inherited from their family—the traditions, morals, values and faith—and making decisions about whether what they've observed is something they want for themselves. Decisions kids make now about their relationship with Jesus carry a lot of weight because they're old enough to understand that God is for them. **His grace is real and covers all of their sin—past, present, and future.**

WHAT TO SAY

1. GOD LOVES YOU

- You were made in the image of God. He sees you as you are, He accepts you, and He loves you.
- But we're broken. We behave in a way that's harmful to ourselves and separates us from God. That's called sin. Sin convinces us to focus on ourselves—that we matter most and we know best. While God isn't mad at us, He does know that our sin will hurt us—hurt how we understand ourselves, how we treat others and how we view Him.
- Our sin keeps us from seeing what's true about God, ourselves and others. Sin convinces us that we know best, that God is against us and that we matter more than those around us. Ultimately sin keeps us from God Himself.

ASK...

1. How have you seen sin hurt you or others?
2. What is the biggest problem of sin?

2. GOD IS FOR YOU

- God knew our sin would make us want to hide from Him and look out only for our best interest with no regard for others.
- God also knew that when we sin we'd think God would want to come after us to punish us. We'd be tempted to distance ourselves from Him to avoid His punishment. But God isn't interested in punishing our sin as revenge. Instead, He wants to free us to live for something better.
- To prove how committed God was to live with us and for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, to go to the greatest length possible to demonstrate His love. Jesus died on the cross for us to show us God is for us. Jesus paid the price of our sin with His death.
- After three days, Jesus was resurrected from the dead, proving He has ultimate power, and that He can do what He says He'll do. And we can know that nothing—not even death—can separate us from Him. When we put our faith in Him, He has the power to change our lives!

ASK...

1. What was the purpose of God sending Jesus to die?
2. How do you feel about someone who is willing to die for you?

3. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN JESUS

- Believing in what God demonstrated through Jesus is like accepting a gift.
- We accept the gift when we decide to trust that the God who made us is for us—that He is willing to do anything to prove His love and that He wants what's best for us. We show that trust by living in a way that reflects our confidence that what God says is best.
- We know that God loves us and nothing we do could ever change that. No amount of good behavior and no amount of sin will change the way He feels about us.
- We can help others to receive that same gift when we use our lives to love God and love others.

ASK...

1. How do we show that we trust what God did for us?
2. How does knowing about God's love for us change the way we see Him?

WHAT NOT TO SAY

"INVITE JESUS IN YOUR HEART..."

This phrase can be confusing as kids are concrete thinkers. They need to know it is a relationship with Jesus and a choice they make.

"YOU HAVE TO PRAY LIKE THIS..."

Don't get hung up on the "right words" but rather the heart with which they pray. It is just a conversation with God.

ANY ANSWER YOU MAKE UP.

"I don't know" is a legitimate answer to questions your kid has about faith. There's so much that we don't understand about God. Instead of appearing to have all the answers search them out together. This is a great opportunity to model faith.

SAMPLE PRAYER

God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died to pay the price for my sins and that He rose from the dead. Today, I say YES to following you and accepting your gift. I know that you are the only way to be forgiven and live forever in heaven with you. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

NEXT STEPS...

BAPTISM

Jesus modeled baptism and commands us to be baptized when we decide to say YES to following Him. We would love to celebrate with your family as your child makes their faith public by being baptized!

To register, or for more information, go to: baptism.sv.cc



