

How to Lead a Child to Christ

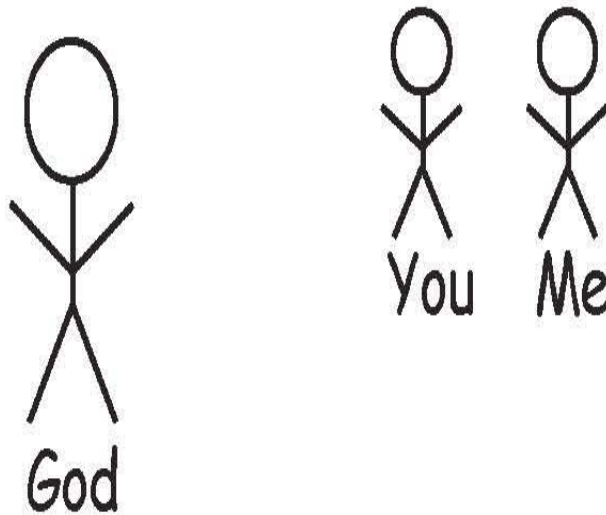


You can use the following method to share the Gospel on a child's level. Remember, be brief and to the point. A seven year old under the conviction of the Holy Spirit is still a seven year old and will still have the attention span of a seven year old. Please don't mistake immaturity for lack of interest or conviction.

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Step One: *God Loves You*

Draw the following:



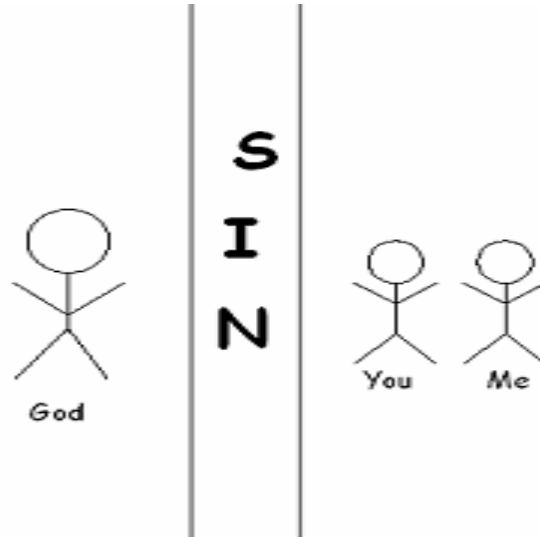
Explain that God loves the person you are talking to and that He wants a personal relationship with them. Instead of writing "You" and "Me" under the figures, write your name and the name of the person to whom you are talking.

John 3:16 – *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

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The Drawing – Step Two: Sin – *Our Problem*

Add to the Drawing:



Explain that we have a problem. Our problem is sin and sin is anything we do that is wrong.

ASK: *Have you ever done something wrong?* (Be careful not to ask, “Have you ever sinned?” Some children aren’t familiar with the term “sin.” Ask, “Have you ever done anything wrong?”)

Explain that everyone is a sinner and sin (the wrong things we do) separates us from God, just like in the drawing. “Picture this as a Grand Canyon or Great Wall that separates you from God. You see, God is perfect. He’s on this side. Are we perfect? No, because we’ve all done wrong things.”

Roman 3:23 – *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

Important Note about the Stage of Accountability

On *Step Two* of the drawing if a child cannot yet discern right from wrong, he has not yet reached the stage of accountability and is not ready to give his life to Christ. In this event, plant a seed for the future:

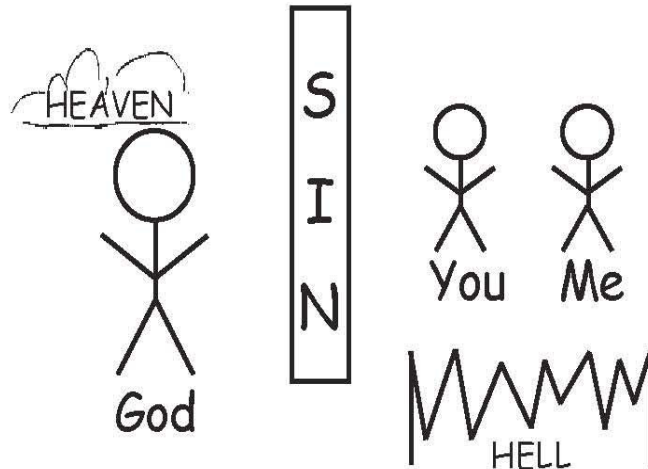
“You know, Johnny, there will be a time in your life when you do something that’s wrong. When that time comes, know that God still loves you and has made a way for you to go to heaven. And, Johnny, if you ever start thinking about heaven and how you can go there, come talk to me.”

*At this time **DO NOT** pray with him that he’ll accept Christ when the time is right. Many people do this without realizing that they are dealing with a young child who may only remember that he talked with somebody about Jesus and someone prayed with him. We don’t want to do anything that might cause doubt in the future.*

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Step Three: *The Result of Sin & the Gift of God*

Add to the drawing:



Romans 6:23 - *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Explain that there is a punishment for the wrong things we do. This punishment is eternal separation from God in a place called “hell.” God didn’t create hell for us, but for the devil and the other angels that rebelled against Him. But when we sinned and rebelled against God, this became our just punishment too.

ASK: *But where does God want us to go?* (To Heaven.)

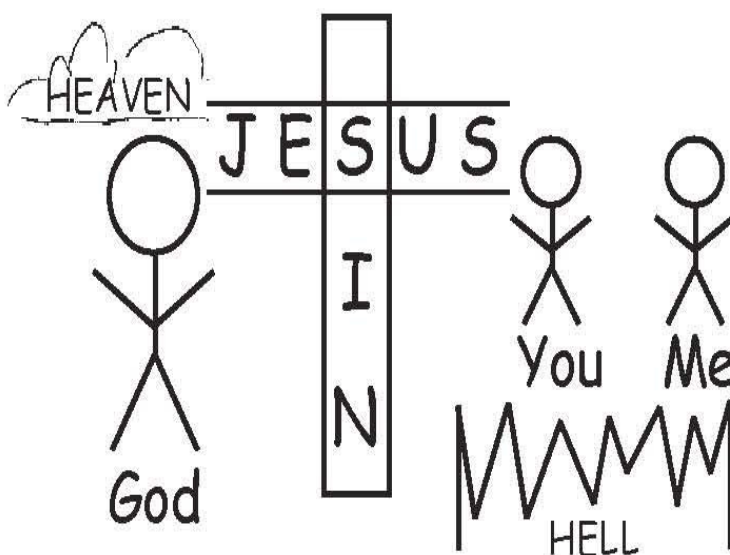
But just because He wants us to go there, doesn’t mean that we automatically will.

Important: When speaking with a child, do not omit mentioning hell because it is a part of the Gospel. However, do not focus on this. Your aim is not to scare your child, but to inform them that there is a punishment for sin and a gift that is heaven. Also, you may need to distinguish with some children that “hell” is a “bad” word if you hit your thumb with a hammer and then say it, but it is also a place.

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The Drawing – Step four: *One Way*

Add to the drawing:



Explain that Jesus was God and came to earth as a man. He lived a perfect life, and when He died, God punished Him for all the wrong things you and I would ever do. This is how much God loves you and this is the reason Jesus came, to make a way for you to go to heaven. (*Refer to the sin block.*) If this is the Grand Canyon of sin, Jesus built a bridge across it by dying and paying the price for your sins, but Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later, God raised Him from the dead and He's alive today. That's why He's the only way to go to heaven.

Romans 5:8 - *"But God demonstrated his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

John 14:6 - *"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except through me.'"*

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The Drawing – Step Five: *Gift Illustration*

Add NOTHING to the drawing:

Explain that salvation is a gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

(You can also refer back to **Roman 6:23**)

Gift Illustration:

Let's say this pen (the pen you've been writing with) is worth a million dollars and I come to you one day and say, "I'd like to give this to you." Is it yours yet? What would you have to do to get it? (If they don't immediately say, "I have to reach out and take it," guide them toward that answer.)

Like a gift, you can accept it, or you can say no. A gift can't be earned, just like heaven – you can't be good enough to get to heaven. (*Refer back to the drawing*) There is only one way across that Grand Canyon of sin, and that's Jesus.

Now with the pen, it would be easy for you to take it. All you have to do is reach out and it's yours. With God's gift, it's a little different – You can't physically reach out and take it, but in the Bible God told us how we can accept this gift. You see, Jesus paid the price; what we have to do is:

Admit that we have sinned and be willing
to turn from our sin.

Believe that Jesus is God's Son who died
and was raised from the dead.

Call on the Lord, confess our sins, and
commit our life to Him.

The Bible says:

Roman 10:9 - *“That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Roman 10:13 – *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

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The Drawing – Step Six: *The Invitation*

BIG QUESTIONS:

ASK: *Does all this make sense to you?*

ASK: *Would you like to give your life to Christ?*

If NO, ask why not?

If YES, then let them pray aloud or lead them in a prayer similar to the following:

*Dear Jesus,
Thank you for dying for me and offering me heaven. I'm sorry for the wrong things I've done.
Please save me and be my Lord and Savior. I give you my life. Thank you for saving me.
In Jesus Name, Amen.*

Remember, there is no magic prayer. Words don't save a person; God knows what is in their heart. After your child accepts Jesus, immediately congratulate him and give him a big hug. Then encourage him to continue growing with Jesus, to make his decision public, and to follow Him in baptism.

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Important Scriptures

The drawing above is patterned after the following Bible verses:

STEP 1—God Loves You

John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

STEP 2—Sin: Our Problem

Romans 3:23 - “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

STEP 3—The Result of Sin & the Gift of God

Romans 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

STEP 4—One Way

Romans 5:8 - “But God demonstrated his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 14:6 - “Jesus said, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.’”

STEP 5—Gift Illustration

Ephesians 2:8 – 9 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

STEP 6—The Invitation

Romans 10:9 - “That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 - “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Hebrews 9:27 - “For it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this to face judgment.”