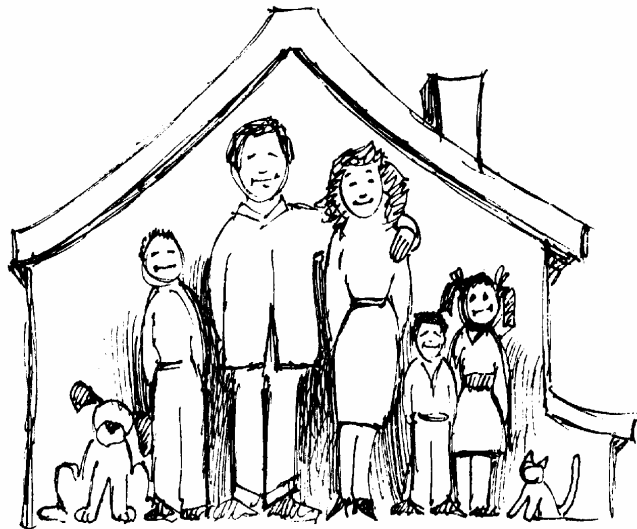


FAMILY ACTION PACK

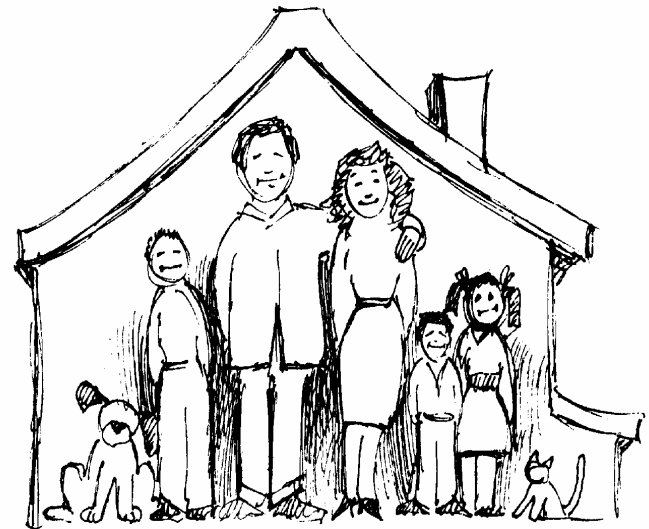
Volume 4—Everyday People Series



First Baptist Church Owasso

FAMILY ACTION PACK

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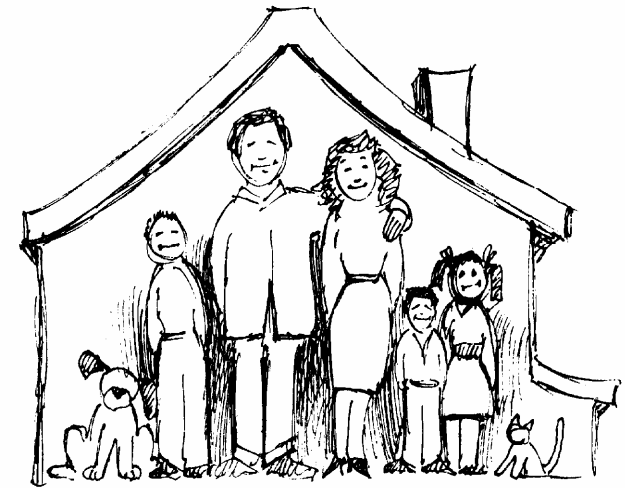


Family Action Pack
Special Time—Volume 4
By Kolby King

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www.threethirtyministries.org



Of all the nobles matters to which an individual can devote himself—from the political office that leads a nation toward moral correctness, from the writer’s pad upon which years of knowledge and wisdom pour, to the laboratory where the cure for an “incurable” disease is revealed—nothing so compares to the great work of investing one’s life in raising godly children who fully devote themselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.



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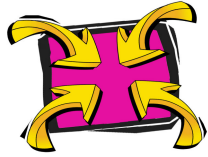
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An Artificial Culture of God

What a child believes by the time he is thirteen will dominate his belief system for the rest of his life and yet I fear that many of the children growing up in our churches are developing a worldview that perpetuates an artificial culture of God. By “artificial” I mean that many of our children are not getting a true picture of reality. The “culture of God” many of them are experiencing is produced and confined inside the walls of the church building. What is communicated to a child when he comes to church and hears the preacher tell the great truths of the Gospel and hears his teacher tell him that the Bible is his guide to life, and yet the Bible is never read and discussed at home? Does it not say that such things, meaning the “Gospel” and the “Bible” belong there—at the church—and that they do not affect the home environment nor how life is lived outside the church? What does a child learn when he sees his parents pray only at the church-house but never witnesses their joined and individual communication with God on a daily basis? What volumes are imprinted on the minds of our children when they hear us “Amen” the preacher who stomps his foot against sin and yet they sit next to us in our living rooms as we watch and laugh at the very things we opposed from our pews? Does this not tell him that this “culture” of prayer and Bible reading and Christian living belong only at church? That such things are performed as a religious duty in a religious environment but have no relevance to everyday life? May God forbid that by our own actions of ignorance and neglect our children may grow up without the understanding that God permeates every moment, every breath, every thought, and every action of the believer. That there is not a move made, a bite taken, not even an insignificant second that is not under the direct influence and lordship of Jesus Christ. Perish the idea that we may leave our children nice houses, names of good repute, a fortune in inheritance, and even a moral lifestyle without an eternity of hope. Shall we, by our own neglect, condemn our children’s children to darkness and despair? By the heritage we pass, shall our great-grandchildren learn of our faith or shall they be left with the poor, fading rubbish of the worldly things and life we left behind? For I am convinced that of all the nobles matters to which an individual can devote himself—from the political office that leads a nation toward moral correctness, from the writer’s pad upon which years of knowledge and wisdom pour, to the laboratory where the cure for an “incurable” disease is revealed—nothing so compares to the great work of investing one’s life in raising godly children who fully devote themselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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Everyday People Family Action Pack

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Part 1—Family Special Times

What is a Special Time?

Each week contains one Special Time—Set aside one night each week for a “special time” where you and your kids can have family fun together and learn valuable lessons from God’s Word at the same time.

Teaching Method

Children only remember 10% of what they hear, 20% of what they see, and 30% of what they hear and see. They are concrete learners, which means they retain 80 to 90% of what they do, touch, smell, taste, and help teach. This is the reason that *The Family Action Pack* contains a teaching style that will help your child to:

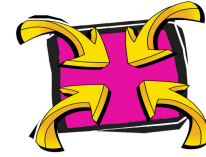
*Find it. Taste it. Touch it. Make it.
Know it. Grow it. See it. Show it.
Live it!*

Part 2—Bedtime Stories

This section contains both fun bedtime stories about faith, trust, and running the race of life, as well as Bible Bedtime Readings.

Part 3—How to Lead Your Child to Christ

As a Christian parent, we want you to be ready to talk with your child about salvation. This method of presenting the gospel is simple and easy and uses a drawing to illustrate the truths of God’s Word.



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The Nine Commandments of the Special Time

Have Fun

These sessions are set up for you to have fun leading your family into the truths of the Bible. If you're not having fun, then your children won't either.

Be Positive

Maybe you've had a rough day and all you want to do is curl up in a cave and vegetate for a little while. Then just take a deep breath, take a few moments to relax, commit this time to the Lord, and then jump in with a positive attitude. After a few minutes, a special time with your family can change how you feel.

Be Willing

Your children will only go as far as you go, which means, if you only do the activity halfway, they'll only do it halfway too. Be willing to get down on the floor, to get inside the tent, to throw a pillow or make a paper airplane. They may not remember all the things you tell them, but you're making memories that will last a lifetime.

Don't Pull Out the Pulpit

Don't preach. This should be an interactive time where the whole family can talk and discuss.

Don't Bore

Most of these sessions are short, fast-paced and to the point. Don't drag them out. Length of time and spirituality are not one-in-the-same. So don't talk long and don't pray long.

Don't Rush

Even though these sessions are set up to be short, if your family is enjoying themselves, don't cut it off too soon. Don't be in a hurry to move on to whatever comes next in your life. And if it's that favorite TV show, just remember that God gave us DVRs for a reason...right?

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Don't Make it a Burden

These sessions have been written trying to use items that most people already have in their houses. Imagine a group walking through a house and saying, "Everyone has toilet paper. So how can we use toilet paper to teach kids about Jesus?" Now you have an idea how many of these activities developed! You don't have to prepare or study to lead these. Just open up the session and get started. It's as simple as that.

Listen Up

During these sessions you'll be asking your children a lot of questions. Listen closely and be careful not to cut them off, talk down to them or correct them in a manner that will make them hesitant to share in later sessions. Sometimes we jump to fix things without fully listening.

Keep it Up

Make a commitment, put it on your calendar, and stick to it. Let this become a favorite time of the week and a top priority. After all, what is more important than what you are about to do with your family?

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Week 1—Special Time

The Great Race

You will need

Anything you might need for a fun race.
Your Bible marked at Hebrews 12:1-3 and 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

Choose any race in which your children and you can compete. Some ideas are listed below.

Race Options:

- Race to see who can eat a banana the fastest.
- Race to see who go the fastest with a ball or balloon between their knees..
- Race to see who run across the backyard the fastest.— have them try running, hopping, bear crawling, etc..
- Race to see who can build the tallest tower out of blocks, cups or even shaving cream.

Have fun with whatever race you choose. The point isn't the race or even who wins the race. The point is for your children to understand that they are in a race in life.

SAY—The Bible compares the Christian life to a race but the winners in life are not the fastest or even the best...Real winners in life are those who totally live for Jesus.

Read the Hebrews 12:1-3 from your Bible.

ASK—What do you think the Bible means when it says to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily trips you?

ASK--What are some things that could hinder a person from running fast in a race? (Lots of things—an untied shoe lace, a hurt foot, a hole in his path.)

ASK--What are some things that could hinder a person from totally living for Jesus? (Lots of things—greed, anger, disobedience, lying, selfishness...any sin and anything else that might stop a person from living a life of faith.)

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Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8 from your Bible.

SAY—At the end of his life the Apostle Paul could say that he had “finished the course.” He had finished the race. God has a specific course for your life as well. He has great plans for you, but you’ll miss out on all those great things that God has in store for you if you don’t live for and follow Jesus every day.

ASK—If there anything in your life right now that you feel might be holding you back from fully living for Jesus? (As a parent, this is also a question that you need to be honest about. If your child has seen actions in your life that are contrary to someone following Jesus, you need to tell them that you too have had things in your life that have been holding you back and that you’re willing to let go of anything that will hinder you from living for Jesus.)

PRAY—List prayer requests below and take time to tell the Lord that you want to live for Him without anything hindering you. If there are sins in your life, now is the time to ask for forgiveness.

Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests here:

Bedtime Bible Reading

After you’re done, feel free to have a few more races...and at bedtime tonight, read 2 Timothy 4:7-10. These are the same verses you read above with two additional ones to hear about someone who stopped running “the race” because he cared more for this world than for following Christ.

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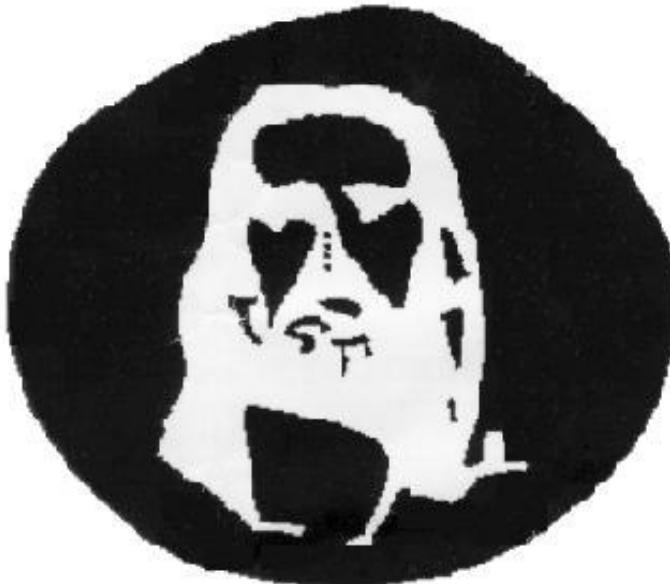
Week 2—Special Time

Do You See What I See?

You will need
No items are needed.
A Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1

Get Started

Stare at the dots in the middle of the image below while you slowly count to 20. Then close your eyes, turn toward a light source and slightly tilt your head back. After about five seconds the image will form a picture in your mind.



ASK—What did you see? (You should have seen an image of Jesus' face.)

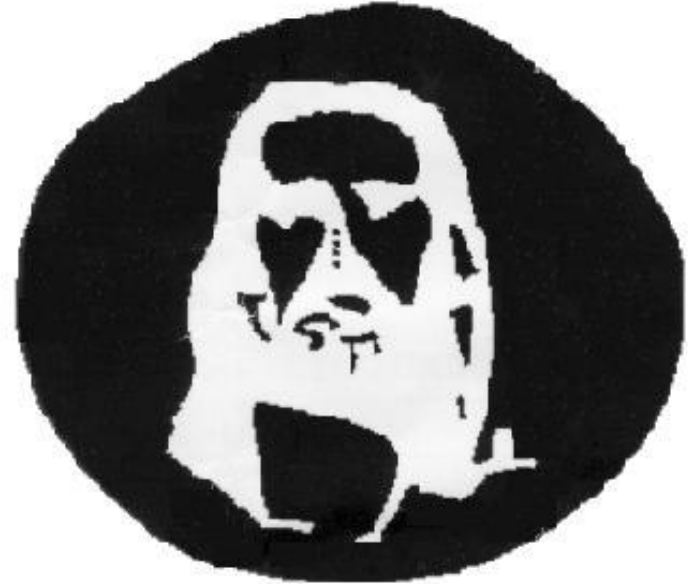
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ASK—What did you see? (You should have seen an image of Jesus' face.)

SAY—You saw something that wasn't there. In a similar way, faith is trusting in things that you cannot see.

Read Hebrews 11:1 from your Bible.

ASK—Can you see God? (Not with your eyes, but you know He is there.)

ASK—Can you see Jesus? (Not with your eyes, but again you know He is there. That's faith.)

Have everyone hold up one finger and gently blow on it.

ASK—What do you feel? (I feel the air blowing on my finger.)

ASK—What do you see? (Nothing.)

SAY— Just because you can't see something with your eyes, doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. You can't see the wind, but you know it's there and you can see what it does. You may not be able to see God, but you know He's there and you can see what He does as well.

ASK—What are some things that God has done in your life or our family?

SHARE—Some things that God has done in your life.

(NOTE: An atheist once asked a Christian how she knew that Jesus was real. Her answer was simply, "I know that He is real because He lives within my heart.")

PRAY— List prayer requests on the next page and thank God for His love and the great things that He has done in your lives.

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Week 3—Special Time Balance It!

You will need

A piece of paper and some tape or other items that can be balanced—i.e., a wooden spoon, a feather, a dial rod, etc.
A Bible marked at Hebrews 11:13-16

Get Started

Take turns trying to balance items on either your middle finger or in the palm of your hand. You can use a wooden spoon, a feather, a dial rod, or just a piece of rolled up paper that is taped to make a narrow cylinder.

The KEY: The key to balancing any item, professionals say, is to keep your eyes focused on the top of the item. Don't look at your hand. Look up.

SAY—God wants us to keep our eyes on Him too. Even though we can't see Him, He has given us the Bible that is full of promises to which we can cling. He has also given us Himself and wants us to keep Him the focus of our lives.

Read Matthew 14:22-33 from your Bible.

ASK—When did Peter start to sink? (When He took His eyes off Jesus.)

ASK—What are some ways that people we know might take their eyes off Jesus? (By letting sin have a place in their lives; by starting to live for things rather than for Christ.)

ASK—What can you do to grow closer to Jesus and to help keep your focus on Him? (Read the Bible, ask your parents to read the Bible as a family, pray together, encourage each other in Christ, go to church, etc..)

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Week 4—Special Time

Spin

You will need
A Bible marked at Jude 24.

SPIN—Part 1

Have your family stand in a circle, hold hands and time yourselves to see how fast you can spin around five (or ten) times without letting go of each other.

Sit down in a circle and put a Bible in the middle.

SAY—We're going to rest for a minute and then try that again.

ASK—What is your favorite thing that we do together as a family?

ASK—What do you wish we did more of together as a family?

ASK—If you could change anything about our family, what would it be?

SPIN—Part 2

Spin around and time yourselves again.

Sit down in a circle and AGAIN put a Bible in the middle.

ASK—Why do you think I put a Bible in the middle of our family?

SAY—I put it there because we want everything that happens in our lives and our family to center around God and the truths of His Word. We want Him to be the center of everything, and letting God be at the center isn't about going to church or doing things for Him. It's about knowing Jesus, loving Him and following Him every day.

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ASK—Is there anything that we can do, as your parents, to help you follow Jesus more closely and know Him better?
(Be open to some very honest answers.)

SAY—God has a plan for our family and God has a very special plan for you but we'll miss out on God's great plans if we "let go" of following Jesus. When we were spinning we had to hold onto each other.

Have your family hold hands again.

SAY—God wants us to hold onto each other and God wants us to hold onto Him. We need to always make sure that everything we say and do in our family is right in the eyes of God. We want Jesus to be at the center of all of our lives.

SPIN—Part 3

SAY—Let's see if we can beat our best time...and remember to "hold on."

Read from the book of Jude, verse 24 (Jude 24).

SAY—Let's make this verse our prayer today.

PRAY—Pray Jude 24 for your family and ask God to help you always to keep Him the center of everything your family says and does.

Bedtime Bible Reading

At bedtime tonight, take prayer requests from your children, read Matthew 6:7-8 and then let everyone have a chance to pray.

Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests below:

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PRAY—Pray Jude 24 for your family and ask God to help you always to keep Him the center of everything your family says and does.

Bedtime Bible Reading

At bedtime tonight, take prayer requests from your children, read Matthew 6:7-8 and then let everyone have a chance to pray.

Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests below:

Week 5—Special Time

Walking Straight

You will need:
A straight line.
A Bible marked at Joshua 1:7 and Proverbs 4:25-27

Find a straight line, or several straight lines in your house. These could be lines in a tile floor, a line along the edge of the carpet, a line in the concrete of your driveway, the edge of a back porch, etc. Let everyone in your family take turns walking along the line. Tell them to be careful not to “step to the left or the right.” If your children are young, ask them to raise their right hand and then their left hand. Then explain to them what you mean by not stepping to the “left or the right” (i.e., to stay on course, not to wander off one way or another).

Read Joshua 1:7 from your Bible

Walk the Line Again

Let everyone have a second turn. This time, stand at the end of the line and ask them to look at you as they walk.

SAY—God always wants us to keep our eyes on Him.

ASK—Did keeping your eyes on me make it easier or harder to walk the line?

SAY—When you keep your focus on Christ, it helps you to keep walking on the path of how God wants you to live and not straying to the right or to the left,

Read Proverbs 4:25-27 from your Bible

Walk the Line a Third Time

On the third turn, ask them to try walking on the line with their eyes closed.

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Walk the Line a Third Time

On the third turn, ask them to try walking on the line with their eyes closed.

ASK—What are some things that can help you keep your eyes on Christ and not step off His path? (A strong faith, your Bible, your family, godly friends, etc. God has also given us a church to help us stay on track with Him.)

PRAY—List your family's prayer requests below and ask God to help everyone in your family to keep walking with Him, without straying away to the "right or to the left."

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List prayer requests below:

ASK—What are some things that can help you keep your eyes on Christ and not step off His path? (A strong faith, your Bible, your family, godly friends, etc. God has also given us a church to help us stay on track with Him.)

PRAY—List your family's prayer requests below and ask God to help everyone in your family to keep walking with Him, without straying away to the "right or to the left."

Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests below:

Bedtime Bible Reading

At bedtime tonight, read Deuteronomy 5:30-33, another don't "turn to the left or right" passage and encourage your child to always walk with God and to keep his feet from doing evil and going where they shouldn't go.

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Week 6—Special Time Fight for the Faith

You will need
Pillows.

A Bible marked at Hebrews 11:32-36, 38-40

Pillow Fight—Part 1

Have a family pillow fight—Set boundaries, clear an area and have fun. You may also want to set limits depending on the age of your children.

Take a break and sit on your pillows.

SAY: All the heroes we have been learning about at home and at church during the past few weeks had to fight for their faith. These were not perfect people—they made lots of mistakes and faced a lot of tough times, but through it all they wanted to follow and serve God.

ASK: *If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?* (Would you like to go on a boat? To go skiing? To go to an amusement park? A zoo? What about going somewhere where you knew you would be lacking what you need to live, afflicted, mistreated, wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground?)

SAY: That describes some of what these heroes of the faith faced.

READ: Hebrews 11:32-36, 38-40 from your Bible.

ASK: *Why do you think anyone would choose to suffer these things?* (Because they were living for something more important. That's why the Bible says that these were "men of whom the world wasn't worthy," because they weren't living for this world. They were living for God. They weren't living for this life but the life to come.)

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SAY! God always takes care of His children, but following God isn't always easy. These people in the Bible are great examples of how good people can endure bad things. With God, you can overcome anything. You can fight for the faith and always do what is right.

Pillow Fight—Part 2

Have some more pillow fighting fun.

PRAY—List your family's prayer requests below and thank God for the blessings He has given us.

Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests below:

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Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests below:

Bedtime Bible Reading

At bedtime tonight, read 2 Timothy 4:7-8. These are the same verses you read in Week 1. Not only could the Apostle Paul say that he had finished the race, but that he had also "fought the good fight." He was at the end of his life when he wrote this, and looking back, he had finished what God had planned for him. He had followed God's path without stepping to the right or to the left.

SHARE with your child your desire for them also to always live for and follow Jesus.

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SHARE with your child your desire for them also to always live for and follow Jesus.

BEDTIME STORIES



WELCOME

Hebrews 11

Is Faith's Hall of Fame.

But read it slowly,
And look at each name.

These were not superheroes,
Who could soar through the sky.
They were ordinary people,
Just like you and I.

The difference with them,
Was their trust in the Lord,
How they held to the truths,
That we find in His Word.

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Bedtime Stories

Bedtime stories that teach godly character and that show how the truths of the Bible play out in daily life are an incredible tool for instilling spiritual values in your child. The following section contains 6 bedtime stories, one for each week of this series.

Bible Bedtime Stories

Bible Bedtime Stories are simple and easy quick-read stories that you can share with your child straight out of God's Word. It's another great part of a bedtime ritual. Children need consistency but also variety. The consistency is that you read a bedtime story each night or on certain nights...the variety is that you use different kinds of stories on different nights and what better stories are there than the stories that God has given us in His Word. What a great way for children to know and understand the heroes of the Bible better.

Bedtime Bible Readings

Week 1 –Hebrews 12:1 – 2

Week 2 –Hebrews 11:1 – 7

Week 3 –Hebrews 11:8 – 16

Week 4 –Hebrews 11:17 – 22

Week 5 –Hebrews 11:23 – 31

Week 6 –Hebrews 11:32 – 40

Use Your Own Experiences as Bedtime Stories

Children love to hear about your "adventures" and experiences when you were a child. Share your life's experiences with your children, even the things you are learning now as an adult, and help them to grow from your journey of faith.

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THE RACE OF LIFE

Week 1

There once were two fellows,
In the race of life, you see,
One lived for those around him,
The other lived for "ME."

They were the same age,
They came from the same place,
But listen to the difference,
Of how they ran life's great race.

Runner number one,
Was a boy named Lee.
He lived for himself,
And sang, "Me, Me, Me, Me."

"It's all about me,"
Lee would say with a sigh.
"So, what do I care,
About those I pass by?"

A friend of his tripped,
And into a ditch he did fall!
"What do I care?
I won't help him at all."
Another runner got sick,
And turned blue in the face.
"Who really cares," Lee said,
"If *he* can't finish the race?"

"I'm the fastest!
I'm Runner #1.
I don't stop for others.
I just run, run, run!"

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"I'm the fastest!
I'm Runner #1.
I don't stop for others.
I just run, run, run!"

But now let's meet,
Runner number two.
He's very different.
His name is Lou.

He lived for others,
Good ol' Lou,
He never sang, "Me, Me, Me, Me."
He sang, "For you, for you, for you."

At the start of the race,
He didn't push to the lead,
He let others go first,
Then he picked up his speed.

But a runner fell down,
And skinned up his knee,
Lou couldn't just pass,
But stopped to help, you see.
He helped the man run,
Holding him under his shoulder,
When he saw another runner,
Collide with a boulder.

He picked this man up,
And put him on his back,
Then he took off running,
Back to Life's track.

He pulled others from a ditch,
Pulled three from a pit,
Bandaged twelve's knees,
He just wouldn't quit.

Others ran by,
Some even laughed,
Few stopped to help,
They didn't want to be last.

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“You’re a fool!” one yelled,
“You’re running a race!
So quit helping those people,
And pick up the pace!”

But Lou didn’t listen,
He did what was good,
He helped all those people,
He helped all that he could.
At last he crossed the finish,
And came to the end of the track,
Carrying thirty-nine others,
--All hurt runners,
On top of his big, broad back.

Lee, who lived for “Me,”
The world called the winner.
The world gave him trophies,
And a big festive dinner.

Lou won nothing,
He came in last place,
But in God’s eyes,
He was the winner of the Race.



God’s Measure of Success
God and the world have two different ways of evaluating success. In the story, Lee, who lived only for himself finished first. He received trophies and a great dinner. Lou, however, who stopped to help others, came in last, but who do you think lived in a way that was pleasing to God? Listen to what Jesus said in Mark 10:31, “But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first.”

Read Hebrews 12:1-2 from your Bible.

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AN INVISIBLE FRIEND

Week 2

A new kid came,
Last week to school.
I thought he was strange.
I thought he was a fool.

He kept talking to himself.
Real quiet, you see.
As if someone was sitting,
Between him and me.

“What are you doing,”
I said with a shout.
“Why are you whispering?
You’re creeping me out!”

Every eye turned our way.
The teacher gave a glare.
“But he’s talking to someone,
Who isn’t even there!”

“Yes, he is,”
He mumbled to say.
He goes with me everywhere,
Each and every day.
“You’re a nut! You’re a loon!
You’ve lost it, my friend.
You’re a fruit, a baboon!
I’ll say it again!”

He spoke in reply,
“You don’t get it, you see.
You don’t understand,
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“Coming to a new school,
Is scary, I’ll say.
And when I’m scared,
I always pray.”

He was talking to Jesus.
He was saying a prayer.
He was talking to Jesus,
Who really was there!

“I’m sorry,” I said.
“I’d make it up if I could,”
I felt real bad,
But I finally understood.

He stopped whispering after that,
But when he’d stare at the wall,
I knew he was still talking to Jesus,
Who was there after all.



Trusting

The kid in the story was praying because he was scared. What scares you? How do you think praying can help you when you’re frightened? Psalm 56:3 says, “When I am afraid, I will trust in You.”

You can always trust God. As a Christian, He will always be with you and you can talk to Him anytime, anywhere about anything. Just because you can’t see something, doesn’t mean it’s not there.

Read Hebrews 11:1 from your Bible.

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SOUR SUE

Week 3

I'll tell you the tale,
Of Sour Sue,
Who always was worried,
And always felt blue.

Her problem wasn't,
A too tight shoe.
And her problem wasn't,
That her cow wouldn't moo.

No, it wasn't,
A cousin named Boo,
Who had no teeth,
And could bearly even chew,

And under his nose,
He'd tack green glue,
And then scream real loud,
"I sneezed!" Ah-choo!

Her problem wasn't,
That her mom's car wouldn't go,
Or that she had gone all winter,
Without any snow.
It wasn't that,
She felt school was too long,
Or that she had bought a canary,
That wouldn't sing a song.

It wasn't that her feet,
Started to stink,
Or that her favorite red sweater,
Had suddenly turned pink.

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Her problem wasn't that,
She had bought a guitar,
That got run over,
By a big-wheeled car.

And it surely wasn't,
That her teeth turned yellow,
And the dentist who fixed them,
Was a funny-looking fellow.

It wasn't even that,
Three whiskers grew on her chin.
But that was all right,
There were five on her friend.

Her problem was,
A faith problem, I feel,
Because she couldn't look beyond,
To see what was real.
The "big picture,"
Wasn't in her mind.
She just looked to this world.
To all else she was blind.

But there's more out there,
Than what you can see, touch and feel.
Just because you can't see it,
Doesn't mean it's not real.

You can't see God,
But by faith you know,
He at your side,
Wherever you go.

His unseen promises,
Are as real as your bed,
And the blanket and pillow,
On which you lay your head.

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By faith, you see more,
As you trust in the Lord,
Faith knows that,
God will always keep His Word.

But poor sour Sue,
Lived in worry and dread,
She missed a life of faith,
That's a million times better instead.



Seeing Beyond

A boat on the Mississippi River sailed into a thick fog but to the surprise of many on it, the captain didn't slow down. He continued to go as fast as he had when the way was clear. One concerned passenger took the stairs to the top of the boat to speak with him about his carelessness, but when he arrived, he saw what the captain saw. The fog was low and from above the captain had a clear view of everything. He could see the "big picture" that the others couldn't.

Likewise, God sees and knows more about every situation than we could ever imagine. He sees the "big picture." There will be times in your life that things will happen that you don't understand. And when we don't have all the answers, we know that we can continue to trust God because He sees what we don't. And by faith, we too can see beyond the situation.

Read Colossians 3:1-2 from your Bible.

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A REALLY ROTTEN DAY

Week 4

“It’s a happy, shiny, bright new day.”
The mom said to Jonathan Gray.
“Get up. Get up.” She patted his head.
It’s time for you to get out of bed.

He closed his eyes,
Then jumped up in a dash,
Grabbed hold of his clothes,
And was dressed in a flash.

But after that,
The good was gone.
Everything that happened,
From there went wrong.

He tripped when he walked.
He fell down the stairs.
His toast was burnt,
And he grew nose hairs.

His fingernails turned blue.
“Oh what will kids think.”
Then he smelled a bad odor.
He was starting to stink.

His socks didn’t like him,
So they jumped off his feet.
His shoes just laughed,
And ran up the street.

Then it started raining spaghetti,
Which he thought was quite weird.
Then he had an odd feeling.
He’d grown a pink beard.

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Suddenly a hurricane came,
And blew his house away,
And there he stood alone.
Poor Jonathan Gray.

Spagetti covered him,
From his head to his toes.
Then a monkey came from nowhere,
And pinched him on his nose.

Without warning the moon fell down,
And hit him in the knee,
“Ouch!” he screamed,
“Why me? Why me?”

“Its a happy, shiny, bright, new day,”
Jonathan heard his mother say.
“Get up. Get up.” She patted his head.
It had all been a dream,
And he was glad to get out of bed.



Trusting

From time to time, you'll have rough days. Some things in life are hard to understand, but you don't have to understand everything to trust God. Faith trusts what it cannot see, touch or feel. Faith also trusts even when you don't have all the answers for why certain things happen. By faith you know that God will never let you down. By faith you know that God is on His throne and has all power. By faith you know the He will always keep His word, and by faith you know that the Lord loves you.

Read Hebrews 11:6 from your Bible.

Suddenly a hurricane came,
And blew his house away,
And there he stood alone.
Poor Jonathan Gray.

Spagetti covered him,
From his head to his toes.
Then a monkey came from nowhere,
And pinched him on his nose.

Without warning the moon fell down,
And hit him in the knee,
“Ouch!” he screamed,
“Why me? Why me?”

“Its a happy, shiny, bright, new day,”
Jonathan heard his mother say.
“Get up. Get up.” She patted his head.
It had all been a dream,
And he was glad to get out of bed.



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WHAT DO YOU DO?

Week 5

What do you do,
When a bully picks on you?
By faith you give it to God,
And tell your teacher too.

What do you do,
When worry fills your mind?
By faith you talk to the Lord,
And leave your cares behind.

What do you do,
When you think a monster is in the room?
By faith you pray to Jesus,
And let Him lift your gloom.

What do you do,
When you do not get your way?
You act with kindness and courtesy,
And watch what you say.

What do you do,
When someone is mean to you?
You do good to them,
And pray God will bless them too.
What do you do,
When you've done something wrong, my friend?
You take the discipline coming your way,
And decide not to do it again.

Do what Jesus would do,
And hold to what's good.
Always obey God and your parents,
As you know you always should.

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But what do you do,
When a friend wants you to go,
To a place you shouldn't,
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And what do you do,
If something's on TV,
That you really want to watch,
But you know you shouldn't see?

Or what do you do,
When kids at school,
Tell you to do something wrong,
And then you'll be cool?

What do you do,
When everyone will laugh,
Unless you do what's wrong,
And leave God's path?

This is what you do:
Don't turn to the left or the right,
Stay on God's path,
And hold to Jesus tight.

Do what you God says,
Obey every line,
And you'll never go wrong,
And you'll be just fine.

There's not doubt about it:
God's way is best,
And if you follow His ways,
Your life will be blessed.

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Don't Walk Away

In life you'll face trials and temptations. Some people will tempt you to do what you know is wrong. Others will try to get you to leave God's path. Some might even tell you that the Bible isn't true or that God isn't real. The world can be a tough place, but you know what is right and true and good and what God has required of you. So, follow Him and be just like Jesus.

Read Micah 6:8 from your Bible.



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THE FLYNOCEROS

Week 6

Imagine a rhino,
Who wanted to fly.
Who'd spend all day,
And just stare at the sky.

"I'll build some wings,"
He said out loud.
"And flap until,
My head's in a cloud."

"Or I'll become a kite,
Tied down with a string,
And soar so high,
I can see everything."

"Or I'll strap a rocket,
On my back real tight,
And blast straight up,
Into the night."

But the wings and kite,
Both did fail,
And that big 'ol rocket,
Just burn up his tail.

None of the plans,
Worked out for him,
So he felt real sad,
And his hopes looked dim.

Until one day,
He saw a sign,
To buy tickets,
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It took four tickets,
To seat him in there,
But finally at last,
He was up in the air.

“I’m above the clouds,”
He shouted with joy.
“I can’t believe it!
Oh boy! Oh boy!”

He was the first to fly—
The first rhinoceros.
And from the day on,
He was called the flynoceros.



Big Dreams

There may be a lot of things you’d like to do in your life. Maybe you’d like to fly a jet or blast-off in a rocket. Perhaps you want to make a million dollars or the the President of the United States. But of all the things that will happen to you, the greatest thing is you can do is to give your life to Jesus and accept Him as your Savior and Lord.

This is where the race begins, where the fight of faith begins, where God’s path begins...where everything that we’ve talked about in the past several weeks begins. This is where life begins and if you ever have any questions about Jesus or how you can know for sure that you’d go to heaven, please let me know.

The Bible says in Romans 10:13,
“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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How to Lead Your 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. For more information about when a child is ready to accept Christ, please contact the children's ministry for a copy of the booklet, "When Can a Child Be Saved?"

How to Lead Your Child to Christ

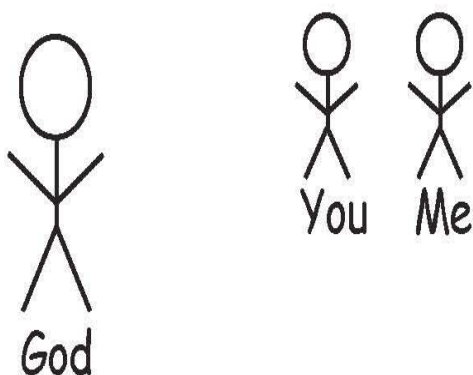


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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

Step One: *God Loves You*

Draw the following:



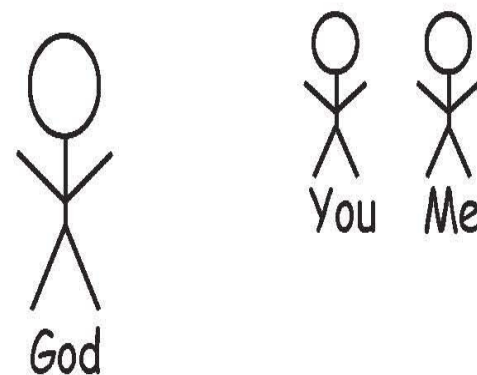
Explain that God loves the person you are talking to and that He wants a personal relationship with them. Instead of writing “You” and “Me” under the figures, write your name and the name of the person to whom you are talking.

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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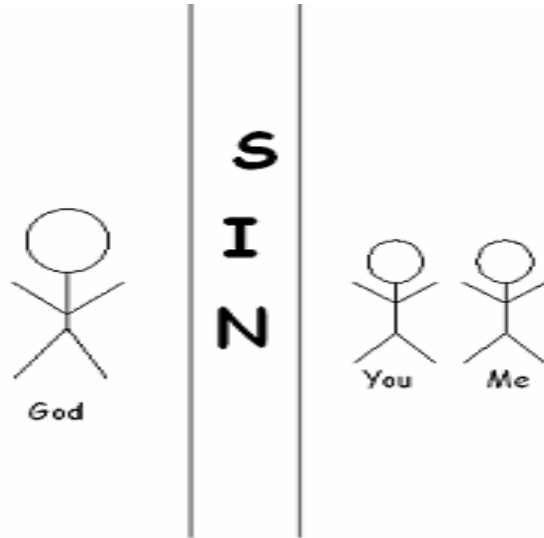
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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

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?”)

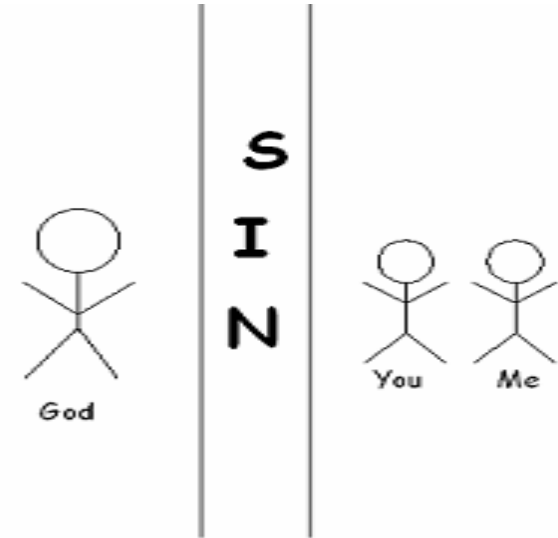
Explain that everyone is a sinner and sin (the wrong things we do) separates us from God, just like in the drawing. “Picture this as a Grand Canyon or Great Wall that separates you from God. You see, God is perfect. He’s on this side. Are we perfect? No, because we’ve all done wrong things.”

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

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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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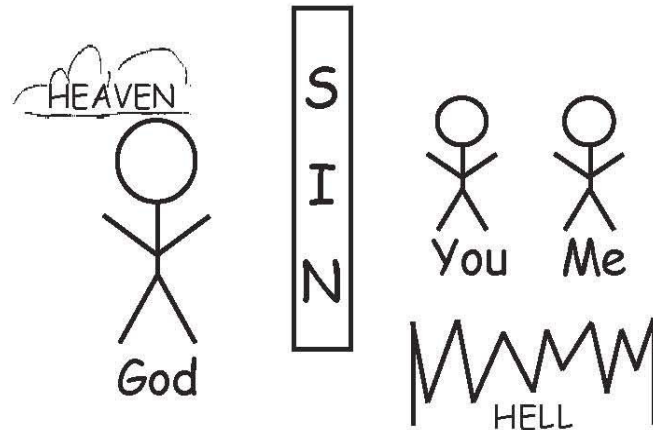
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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

Step Three: *The Punishment and the Gift*

Add to the drawing:



Roman 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.)

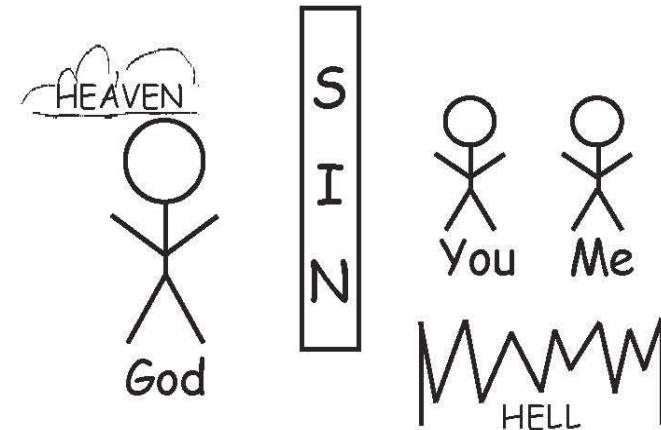
But just because He wants us to go there, doesn’t mean that we automatically will.

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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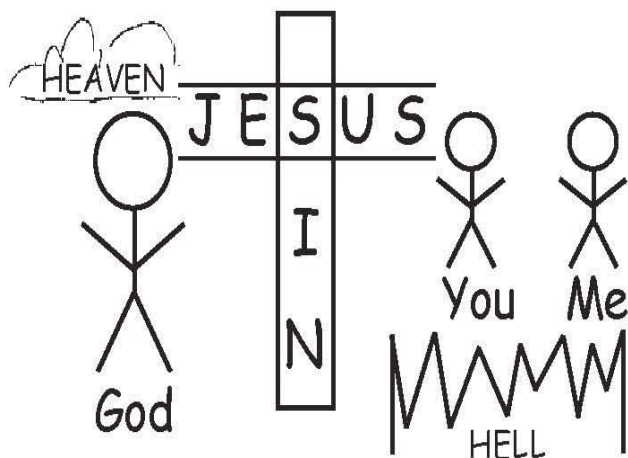
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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

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.

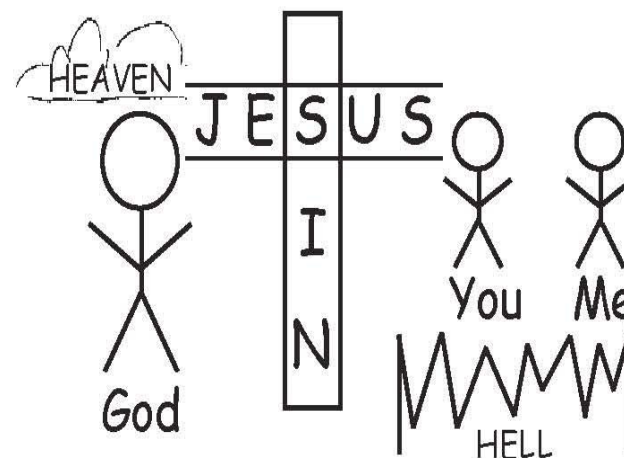
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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

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 for our sins; what we have to do is give our lives to Him and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

This is how a person can give his life to Jesus:

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
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How to Lead Your Child to Christ

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: (Remember, there is no magic prayer. Words don't save a person; God knows what is in their heart.)

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.

After your child accepts Jesus, immediately congratulate him and give him a big hug. Let him know how proud and happy you are. Then encourage him to continue growing with Jesus, to make his decision public at church, and to follow the Lord in baptism.

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