

**TALKING
ABOUT
FAITH**



START HERE

Whether your child is asking lots of questions about faith, or you are looking for the right words to explain what you believe in an easy to understand way, we hope that this guide will equip you and give you the confidence you need to talk to your child about following Jesus.

TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

Ask Questions. When talking with your kids about faith, questions can be a great tool to help gauge where they are at spiritually. Avoid yes or no questions. “Open-ended” questions will help your child open up his/her heart to you.

Slow Down. Following Jesus is a huge decision and a lifelong process, so be sure to take it slow with your kids.

Keep it simple. Stay focused on the main aspects of following Jesus listed in this guide. Avoid using symbolic or hard to understand language.

THE 5 ESSENTIALS OF THE GOSPEL:

1. GOD LOVES
2. WE SIN
3. GOD GAVE
4. WE BELIEVE
5. WE RECEIVE

1. GOD LOVES

God is the creator of everything, including us. He knew us and loved us before we were even born. He created us in His image, which means we have a unique place in God's heart. He loves us right now and will love you forever. Out of his love, he designed us to live forever with him in a perfect relationship.

SCRIPTURES TO READ: JOHN 3:16, GENESIS 1:26, EPHESIANS 2:10

2. WE SIN

Even though God loves us and has given us everything we need to have a perfect relationship with him, all of us have decided at one time or another to do what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do. That's called sin. Every single person who has ever lived has sinned and missed God's perfect mark for our lives. Our sin has a consequence to it; being separated from God forever in a place called Hell.

SCRIPTURES TO READ: JAMES 4:17, ROMANS 3:23, ROMANS 6:23

3. GOD GAVE

God loved us so much that he did not want us to face the consequence of our sin. So he gave us the most precious, valuable thing he could; his son Jesus. Jesus came from heaven to earth to be with us and to rescue us from our sin. He did this by living the perfect life that you and I could never live. And rather than using his perfection for himself, he instead used it for us by dying the death that we deserved to die. He gave up his life on the cross for us. But because of his power and perfect sacrifice, he rose back to life 3 days later.

SCRIPTURES TO READ: JOHN 3:16, ROMANS 5:8, 1ST JOHN 3:16

4. WE BELIEVE

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection made it possible for us to have a perfect relationship with God again. But we have to respond to what Jesus has done for us. Our response is called faith. It means that we trust that Jesus was perfect, loved us enough to die on the cross for us, and rose back to life. We recognize that we can't earn and don't deserve what Jesus did for us. But we choose to turn away from doing just what we want, and instead trust him and follow him.

SCRIPTURES TO READ: ROMANS 10:9, JOHN 3:36, 1ST JOHN 1:9

5. WE RECEIVE

When we put our faith in Jesus, we receive a gift. Our perfect relationship with God can be restored. We can live with God forever in heaven. Not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us. This incredible gift should lead to a life of faith and obedience to God.

SCRIPTURES TO READ: JOHN 5:24, EPHESIANS 2:8, ROMANS 10:13

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD:

What do you believe about Jesus?

What is sin?

Why is sin a big deal?

What did God do to help us with our sin problem?

How did Jesus rescue us from sin?

What is the right response to what Jesus has done?

What does it mean to have faith in Jesus?

NEXT STEPS:

If your child has made a decision to follow and trust Jesus, we are celebrating with you and want to help him or her take their first steps of faith. You can reach out to us with questions by emailing children@cbcgroton.com.