



Leading Kids to Christ (and then to Baptism)

Have you ever been hurt? *(tell me about that)*

Has anyone ever made you sad? *(tell me about that)*

Has someone you love ever died? *(family member or pet)? (tell me about that)*

Have you ever hurt someone else? *(tell me about that)*

Have you ever made someone else sad? *(tell me about that)*

Have you ever broken God's rules? *(tell me about that)*

Do you know the word for all that bad stuff? All the stuff we do wrong? All the ways we break God's rules? *(sin)*

Did you know that it's because of sin - your sin and my sin and all the sins of everyone in the world - it's because of sin that people hurt, that people are in pain, that people cry, and that people die?

How do you feel about the bad things that you've done? *(Are you sorry for your sins?)*

Sin makes us feel bad. Sin hurts God's heart too.

God never wanted us to sin. God never wants people to hurt or to die. God wants all people to live in a relationship with him forever and ever. But sin - all the ways we hurt other people, hurt ourselves, and hurt God - sin makes that impossible.

That's bad news, huh?

But I want to share with you good news. **Do you know what the Good News is?** *(God forgives you. God loves you. Even though you sin, God wants to heal your hurts and give you a new life so that you can live in relationship with him forever and ever.)*

That's good news, huh?

Do you know how God makes our sins go away? *(When Jesus died on the cross, he took away our sin. Jesus never sinned. Jesus never hurt anyone. So when Jesus chose to die for us, God took all our sins, gave them to Jesus (on the cross it's like Jesus is stretching out his hands to hold all of our sins), and Jesus took all of them away when he died. When Jesus was buried, Jesus took all our sins and buried them in the ground.)*

Do you want Jesus to make your sins go away?

Do you want God to forgive you of your sins?

What do you have to do for God to forgive you and for Jesus to make your sins go away? *(Just ask - Jesus already died for you, you just have to accept that when Jesus died his death was good for you - his death took away your sins).*

When Jesus takes away our sins, we can live a new life - a new life following Jesus as our Lord.

Do you know what "Lord" means? *(It means leader or master.)*



And when we follow Jesus as leader/Lord, we find that we don't want to sin or hurt people anymore. Instead we want to help people and show them God's love.

Do you want to follow Jesus as your Lord?

Of course sometimes we still make mistakes. We're not perfect and that's ok. Because when Jesus died, he died for ALL your sins - the mistakes you've already made *and* the mistakes you will make in the future. **So if tomorrow, you mess up and sin, do you know what you can do?** (*Just say "Lord, I'm sorry" to God and know that Jesus has already forgiven you.*)

Jesus never leaves you. No matter how many times you make mistakes. God even *helps* us to live in his ways by coming into our life through his Holy Spirit. And once you trust Jesus to take away your sins and invite the Holy Spirit into your life, he's always with you. You never have to invite him back into your life again because he never leaves you.

Do you want the Holy Spirit to be with you forever?

God will always be with you. Even in the hard times. Even in the times when life hurts. Even in death. Jesus even saves us from death. That means, that even though we may die (just like Jesus died), we will rise from the dead (just like Jesus rose from the dead). **What do people that have been *saved* from sin and death call Jesus?** (*Savior*)

Do you want Jesus to be your Savior?

If you're ready, we can pray a prayer - I'll say a few words at a time, and if you want to say those things to God, then just repeat those words out loud to God. And in this prayer, we're just going to say "Sorry, Thank You, and Please." We'll say we're sorry for our sins as we ask for God's forgiveness. We'll say thank you to God for taking away our sins and saving us. And we'll say please - Please come into my life - please fill me with your Holy Spirit, so that I can follow you as my Lord.

Are you ready to pray a prayer like that right now?

(Don't pressure them into something they're not ready for. If they're not ready, try to found out why. Answer any questions they have. You can always resume the conversation later if they're not ready.)

Do you have any other questions before we pray?

"Loving God,
I'm so sorry for my sins.
Please forgive me.
Thank you for dying on the cross for me.
Thank you for saving me.
Please come into my life.
Please fill me with your Spirit,
so that I can follow you as my Lord."

(Celebrate!)

You are now a child of God! And God is so excited that you've chosen to follow him.



Baptism

Now it's time to tell people about your decision!

Do you know how we tell people about the decision we've made to follow Jesus? *(Baptism)*

Do you know what baptism is? *(Baptism is a word that mean to dip/wash. When we baptize someone, we dunk them in water. I know, sounds funny right? But the water is supposed to show people that we have let Jesus wash us clean from our sins. And as we're dipped backward into the water, it's supposed to look like we're being buried in the grave to show people that our sins have been buried with Jesus. And as we're raised out of the water, it's supposed to look like we're being raised out of the grave to show people that we're going to live a new life, just like Jesus was raised to live a new life. Baptism is a party. It's a celebration that God loves you so much.)*

Are you ready for us to plan a baptism party for you?

(Don't pressure them into something they're not ready for. If they're not ready, try to found out why. They might be intimidated at the thought of being the center of attention of the entire church - maybe being baptized along with other friends might alleviate this - or planning a pool party with their Grassroots Group so that there might be less people there and so that everyone will eventually join them in the water for the party. Remind them that everyone is excited for them - like at a birthday party when people gather around and sing "Happy Birthday" and then watch you blow out your candles - and then applaud and celebrate with you. Maybe they're scared of being "dunked" - perhaps a "practice" session could be scheduled. The goal is for them to be excited about the celebration, not fearful. What can we do to alleviate their fears?)