

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- ☐ Pray daily for my child.
- ☐ Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- ☐ Bless my child daily.
- ☐ Schedule and have regular family times.
- ☐ Be prepared to talk with my child about his or her faith decision.
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

The next step on the Faith Path is Prayer, recommended at age six.

Recommended Resources


- What is a Christian? Answers for Kids by Lifeway Kids. Workbook-styled content (for an upper elementary student)
- Am I Ready? Gospel Colors Booklet by DeeperKidMin.com
- The Faith of a Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Salvation for Your Child by Art Murphy
- The Gospel: God's Plan for Me by Lifeway Kids

GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

Create Intentional Moments

FAITH
PATH

Recommended for
5+ years



One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. Even if your child was dedicated or baptized as a baby, you will want to help your child understand the Gospel and make their own faith decision when he or she is old enough to do so. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood. Some worry that they won't explain the gospel properly. They might be tempted to just "leave it to the professionals" by relying on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and influential role when it comes to leading your child to Christ. This guide is designed to help you feel more comfortable about the process when that time comes.

STEP ONE: LAY A FOUNDATION

- Your son or daughter grows in his or her understanding of God by developing a foundation – hearing stories from the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth. Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home – watching your example, feeling your love, and learning right from wrong. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 that says, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

STEP TWO: DISCERN READINESS

- Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push for a decision before he or she is ready to truly grasp the gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually ready. Young children are usually bonded to their parents in such a way that they want to please and do not have a full sense of a separate self. A child needs to understand that this is a personal decision and not just an opportunity to repeat rote answers.

STEP THREE: ASK QUESTIONS

- If you feel your child might be ready, ask a few questions to help gauge his or her level of understanding.
- For example, read Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." Then ask questions like,
 - "What is sin?"
 - "How does your sin affect your relationship to God?"

How they respond can help you sense when your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- **JESUS AS SAVIOR:** *The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross*
- **JESUS AS LORD:** *The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life*

STEP FOUR: GUIDE YOUR CHILD IN PRAYER FOR SALVATION

- Romans 10 says, "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
 - If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide him or her to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it's best to prompt using his or her own words.
- If after reading through this guide and the included The Gospel sheet you would like additional assistance, contact the church to request an appointment for you and your child to meet with a pastor or staff member.

GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

DEAR PARENT,

We believe that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path framework exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been assembled to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this Gospel Conversations kit, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin the journey well. We urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

Visit myfaithpath.com and use the password **myhome2020**

Click on **THE GOSPEL** for an overview and videos that explain this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of intentional parenting and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find links to other helpful resources.

STEP TWO: START

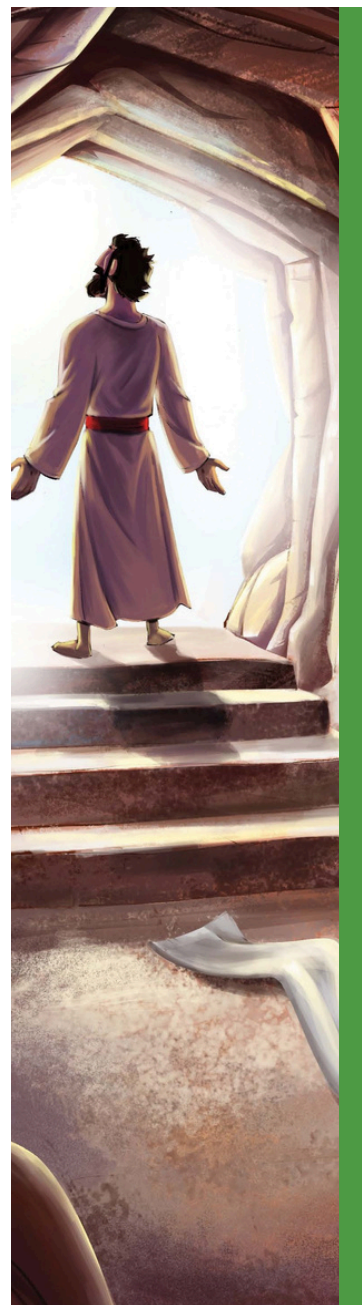
Use the guide and tools to help you get started with this step. Even though we make this kit available to parents of children ages five and above, few children are ready to fully understand the gospel or make a faith decision at such a young age. Use this material to prepare yourself to be ready when your child expresses interest.

The sheet titled "The Gospel: God's Plan for Us" (by LifeWay) will make that conversation easier when the time comes. Here's another video that will be helpful in using the LifeWay material. Scan this code:



Thank you for taking seriously the task of guiding your child's faith. We hope you find these tools and the Faith Path framework helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home.

The next step on the Faith Path is Prayer, recommended at age six.



THE GOSPEL

God's Plan for Us

The gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.