



**BEGINNING A CONVERSATION ABOUT
FOLLOWING JESUS**

JUST FOR PARENTS

This is an exciting time in your child's life. They're starting to ask questions about their faith. They're wondering about God and His love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—questions that you may struggle with yourself, or questions that may not have a simple answer. But that's ok. This is a starting point for you and your kids to begin a life-long conversation about faith. That's why we want you to "Start Here" with John 3:16. It lays the foundation for God's love for us that sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Over the next few pages, we'll break the verse down, phrase by phrase, with some questions to help you start a conversation with your kids.

There is also a video for you to watch to support your discussion with your child. Go to this link <https://vimeo.com/151805901> and watch the video with your child before you continue in this booklet. The password to the link: **tabernacle**.

The "Big Story" Questions

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

What we need to know about God...

God **loved**.

Ask Your Child:

1. What is sin?
2. Have you ever sinned? When?
3. What is the problem with sin?

God loved you before you were even born. He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from Him. It keeps us apart from God's big story. It's called sin. It's the stuff we do wrong. Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us. There isn't a way for us to be able to live with God forever on our own. But because God loved, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

God **gave** us a hero.

Ask Your Child:

1. What did God give us?
2. Why did God give this gift?
3. What did Jesus do for us?

God gave the most important, valuable and perfect thing He had for you. He knew that our sin would keep us from living with Him forever. We're apart from God and would stay that way, but because God loved us, He gave His son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for you to be in God's story. And Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin.

What we need to do...

We believe that Jesus made a way for us.

Ask Your Child:

1. How can you take part in God's Big Story?
2. What does it mean to trust in something?
3. How do you know God loves you?

When you receive a gift what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift by believing. Believing simply means to trust. It's a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight in it. You trust that it will hold you up. That's what it's like to believe in or to trust in this gift. To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died for you.

We surrender to Jesus as LORD and commit to follow Him.

Ask Your Child:

1. What are you willing to give up to follow Jesus?
2. If Jesus is your King (LORD), how will you obey Him?

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it

Luke 9:23-24

We **live** forever with God.

Ask Your Child:

1. What happens when you believe in Jesus?
2. What are the differences in God's story and all other stories?
3. What will being a part of God's big story mean for you?

John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. That means we get to spend forever and ever with God in a place that He made perfect.

You can use the following prayer with your child as you lead them to trust Christ.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I know I am a sinner. I know my sin should separate me from You forever. I believe Your son, Jesus, died for my sin. I accept Your forgiveness for my sin. Thank You for loving me and for giving the gift of Jesus so I could live with You in heaven. Come into my life and be my Savior and Friend.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

JUST FOR PARENTS

1. In the New Testament, it was not uncommon for an entire household to be saved on the same day.
2. If you have never trust Christ as your Savior, or you are not sure if you have, why not settle the question for yourself as well as for you child.
3. Remember:
 - We are not saved by praying a prayer.
 - We are saved by putting our faith in Christ as our Savior.
 - Prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Christ for all He has done on our behalf.

Next steps...

We believe **Baptism is a **picture** of your child's decision to be part of God's Big Story in Christ.**

- Baptism does not save your child... Jesus does.
- Baptism is an opportunity for your child to profess their faith publically.
- Baptism pictures the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin while also illustrating their death to the old life and the new life in Christ.

Ask Your Child:

1. Why would you be baptized?
2. What is baptism a picture of?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

KIDS TOWN

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