

# PARENT CONVERSATION GUIDE: THE GOSPEL PLAN

Your kids 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 okay. This is a starting point for a life-long conversation about faith!

## 1. GOD RULES

- ◆ God created everything, the world, animals and He even created you and me! He is in charge of everything (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17). God loves you and He wants to have a relationship with you, but there is one thing that separates us from Him. Sin.

### Ask...

1. Who created and is in charge of everything?
2. Who wants to have a relationship with you?
3. What separates us from God?

## 2. WE SINNED

- ◆ We all choose to disobey God and do what we want. When we disobey God, that is called sin. Sin separates us from God and because of our sin, we deserve the punishment of death (Romans 3:23; 6:23). God loves you and He knows that there is no way we can rescue ourselves from sin, so he has a rescue plan.

### Ask...

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

## 3. GOD PROVIDED

- ◆ God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9). Because God loves you, He gave His most important, valuable, and perfect gift. He gave His son, Jesus to save us, so that we can have a relationship with God.

### Ask...

1. What does it mean to trust something?
2. What does it mean to repent?
3. What is it that we have to trust to receive this gift from God?

## 4. JESUS GIVES

- ◆ He lived a perfect life, took on our punishment by dying on the cross for our sins and on the 3rd day, He rose again! His resurrection defeated death! Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9). This is the greatest gift ever! God loves you and He wants you to receive this very special gift.

### Ask...

1. What kind of life did Jesus live?
2. What did Jesus do for us?
3. Why did Jesus have to do this?

## 5. WE RESPOND

- ◆ Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through His work on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus (John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13). Believing simply means to trust. God loves you and wants a relationship with you. To receive the gift of Jesus that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.

## SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to us. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1).

**If your child has made the decision to trust Jesus, you can use the following prayer as a guide:**

*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 sins. 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 forever. Please be my Savior, Lord, and Friend.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Children can be talked into “praying the prayer” without experiencing the Holy Spirit at work. Being sensitive to a child’s readiness to accept Christ is crucial. Sometimes, your initial conversation with your child will be the beginning of an ongoing conversation. Allow time for responses, and do not act disappointed or upset if your child is not ready to make that decision during your initial time with time. Instead, pray for God to continue to soften and work in their heart and to have continued faith conversations.
- ◆ When praying, kids are going to express their faith with how they understand it at their age. Don’t get hung up on the “right words” but rather the heart with which they pray.
- ◆ Remember that you don’t have to have every answer. “I don’t know, but I can try to find out” is a legitimate answer to questions your kid has about faith. There’s so much that we don’t understand about how God works and how the Holy Spirit enters our life, and that’s okay.
- ◆ We want to come alongside and partner with you as you disciple your child. If you have any questions about salvation or baptism, please reach out to us at [shkids@scottshill.org](mailto:shkids@scottshill.org) and check out the other parent resources on our site!