

# START HERE

## Beginning a Conversation About Following Jesus

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### 📍 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 He sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Let's break the verse down, phrase by phrase, and learn some questions to help you start a conversation with your kids.

#### Here are some quick things to keep in mind:

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 trusted Jesus as your Savior, or you are not sure if you have, now is the perfect time. Why not settle the question for yourself, as well as, for your child?
3. Remember:
  - It's not about being good enough.
  - We are not saved by praying a prayer.
  - We are saved by putting our faith in Jesus as our Savior.
  - Prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Jesus for all He has done on our behalf.

So, what are you waiting for? Start Here.

### 📍 GOD LOVED YOU

God loved you before you were even born. He created you in His image. And He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from Him, something that keeps us from being with Him forever. It's called sin. It's the stuff we do wrong. Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us. And on our own, we can't do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. And because God loves us, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

#### Ask Your Child:

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

### 📍 GOD GAVE US JESUS

God gave the most important, valuable, and perfect thing He had for us. 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 us to be in God's story. And Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again.

### Ask Your Child:

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

## ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS

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 on 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 in Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.

### Ask Your Child:

1. What does it mean to trust in something?
2. How do you know God loves you?

## LIVES FOREVER

John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. When you believe in Jesus and trust Him to save you, you begin a new relationship with God that starts right away and goes on forever. Someday we will still die, but we get to spend forever and ever with God in a place that He made perfect.

## PRAYER

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

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. Come into my life and be my Savior and Friend.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WHAT NOW?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, "Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!" If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

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**“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIRV)**