

LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

One of the greatest desires of Christian teachers is to lead children to the Savior. God has called you to present the gospel to your students so that they may repent and trust Christ, thereby being acceptable to God through Christ.

Relying on the Holy Spirit, take advantage of the opportunities that arise for presenting the good news of Jesus Christ. Ask questions to personally apply the Ten Commandments to your students (e.g., What is sin? Have *you* ever told a lie or taken something that wasn't yours? Are *you* a sinner?) You may also ask questions to discern the child's sincerity or any misunderstanding he might have (e.g., What is the gospel? What does it mean to repent? Can you do anything to save yourself?). Read verses from your Bible. You may find the following outline helpful, especially when dealing individually with a child.

1. I have sinned (Romans 3:23).

- Sin is disobeying God's Word (1 John 3:4). I break the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2–17) by loving other people or things more than I love God, worshiping other things or people, using God's name lightly, disobeying and dishonoring my parents, lying, stealing, cheating, thinking harmful and sinful thoughts, or wanting something that belongs to somebody else.
- Therefore, I am a sinner (Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Jeremiah 17:9).
- God is holy and must punish me for my sin (Isaiah 6:3; Romans 6:23).
- God hates sin, and there is nothing that I can do to get rid of my sin myself (Titus 3:5; Romans 3:20, 28). I cannot make myself become a good person.

2. Jesus died for me (Romans 5:8).

- God loves me even though I am a sinner.
- He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for me. Christ is sinless and didn't deserve death. Because of His love for me, Christ took my sin on Himself and was punished in my place (1 Peter 2:24a; 1 Corinthians 15:3; John 1:29).

- God accepted Christ's death as the perfect substitute to take the punishment for my sin (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - Three days later, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus Christ is alive today and offers salvation to all. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ: He died on the cross for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4).
3. I need to put my trust in Jesus (Romans 10:9–10, 13–14a).
- I must repent (turn away from my sin) and trust only Jesus Christ for salvation (Mark 1:15).
 - If I repent and believe in what Jesus has done, I am putting my trust in Jesus.
 - Everyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of sin (Acts 2:21) and will live forever with God (John 3:16). I am given His righteousness and become a new creation, with Christ living in me (2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 1:27).

If a child shows genuine interest and readiness, ask, "Are you ready to put your trust in Jesus and depend on only Him for salvation?" If he says yes, then ask him to talk to God about this. Perhaps he will pray something like the following:

God, I know that I've sinned against You and that You hate sin but that You also love me. I believe that Jesus died to pay for my sin and that He rose from the dead, so I put my trust in Jesus to forgive me and give me a home with You forever. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Show the child how to know from God's Word whether he's in God's family (1 John 5:12–13; John 3:18). Encourage him to follow Jesus by obeying Him each day. Tell him that whenever he sins, he will be forgiven as soon as he confesses those sins to God (1 John 1:9).