

Sharing the Gospel with Your Children

Part of our biblical calling as parents is to teach our children about the one true God. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 captures this calling.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

At Covenant we believe a child can have a vibrant relationship with Jesus. Because we believe that a child can have a vibrant relationship with Jesus, it is important that we help them understand how to step into that relationship. That being said, we acknowledge that there is a fair amount of mystery in truly understanding the depth of a child's personal faith.

Reading Bible stories that articulate Biblical principles should be regular activity with your child. This will "normalize" spiritual conversations. It is important for you and your child to be in a habit of talking about biblical things. This will allow their questions and curiosity to play out naturally. This will increase their comfort with your questions for them in this area

When talking about Bible stories or Biblical principles throughout the natural rhythm of life, a need for an articulation of the Gospel message and explanation as to how one steps into a relationship with Jesus will naturally come up.

Gospel Message:

- **God created all things from nothing** and He seeks to share His magnificent love with His creation.
- **God reveals** to men and women how they can experience **His magnificent love**.
- **Men and women rebel against God** and so disqualify themselves from experiencing the magnificent love of God.
- **Jesus** – who is God in flesh – lived a perfect life on earth to demonstrate God's love and then He **died on the cross as a substitutionary atonement** for our rebellion against God.
- Now, **by grace, through faith in the work of Jesus, the Holy Spirit applies Jesus's substitutionary death to our account and His resurrection power to our spiritual deadness**. Through Christ, though we were spiritually dead, we are made spiritually alive.

Stepping into a relationship with Jesus involves these postures of the heart:

Admit you're a sinner in need of grace.

Believe in Jesus – His perfect life and work accomplished on the cross.

Confess your sins. **Commit** to living for Jesus instead of for yourself.

Stepping into a relationship with Jesus can begin with a prayer like this:

God, I admit I'm a sinner in need of your grace. Jesus, I believe that you lived a perfect life on earth and died on the cross to pay for my sins. I'm sorry for my sins against you, God. I commit to living for you and not for myself. Spirit please show me how to follow Jesus. In your name Jesus, I pray. Amen.

And now for the Adventure!

Once you step into a relationship with Jesus, you've begun a lifelong journey of following Jesus. It's a journey of being conformed into the image of Christ for the sake of others. You are now part of a global movement of followers of Jesus who spend their lives being signs and foretastes of the Kingdom of God. Enjoy the adventure!