

**YOUR CHILD'S
FAITH
DECISION
AND BAPTISM**

As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. Many parents don't know quite how (or when) to go about introducing your child to Christ. Parents who worry that they don't have the training or understanding to lead their children to salvation may be tempted to just leave it to the "professionals"—to rely on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to influencing your child's path to salvation. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the when and how of introducing them to Christ.

STEP ONE: Lay a foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation of knowledge of Jesus, as well as watching, relating and learning how to live from you. These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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" (Dt. 6:6-7).

STEP TWO: Discern readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure they grasp the basic message of the gospel. Choosing to follow Jesus both requires simple understanding and obedience. Some children might be stronger in one or the other of those.

STEP THREE: Lead them to make their own decision for their faith

Romans 10 tells us, "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Romans 10:9-10). If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is and what it leads to, as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide your child to confess Jesus as Lord through prayer. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it's best to prompt them to use their own words—to tell God they are sorry for their sins, to ask for His forgiveness, and to confess that He is Lord over the rest of their life.

STEP FOUR: Prepare them for baptism

Romans 6:4 paints a beautiful picture of baptism as a beginning of a new life. God gives us the gift of baptism as a way to publicly show our faith and obedience. The Family Baptism Class is offered for parents and children every first Sunday of the month. During this class we teach the basics of the gospel and how we can respond to God's gift of grace. We also provide instructions on scheduling and planning your child's baptism.

EASTVIEW CONTACTS:

- Jason Smith, Family Pastor: jsmith@eastview.church

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- **Leading Your Kids to Christ: 30 Days to Prepare Your Heart** by Criswell Freeman
- **The Faith of a Child: A Step by Step Guide to Salvation for You Child** by Art Murphy