

# Do's and Don'ts for Sharing the Gospel

## THE GOSPEL TOOLKIT



**We must remember that the gospel is the same regardless of age. Even children need to recognize and acknowledge their sinfulness and understand their need for a Savior. (Matt 18:3)**

Be careful using language like “ask Jesus to live in your heart.” If this is the language you use in your family, it is important to explore with your child to be sure they have a correct understanding. Ask simple questions such as “What does that mean?” to see what your child actually understands about trusting Jesus. ***Kids are concrete thinkers.*** Do they believe a miniature, physical man has come to live inside their hearts? Or do they mean that they love Jesus with all they are and have given their heart to him?

### QUESTIONS TO HELP GAUGE IF YOUR KIDDO IS READY

- ▶ Does it make sense to them?
- ▶ Is there brokenness over sin?
- ▶ Is the child serious about this decision?
- ▶ Was the decision self made?
- ▶ Is there a sense of reality with the decision?
  - ▶ If your child is still in the stage where pretend characters are real, then it may be best to delay. When a child has outgrown this stage, his commitment will be meaningful and not intertwined with the fantasy world!

### PROBING QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ▶ Who is Jesus and what is He like?
- ▶ Why did Jesus come to Earth?
- ▶ Why did Jesus die?
- ▶ What happened with Jesus died and what happened afterward?
- ▶ Why do you believe this?
- ▶ How do I go to heaven?
- ▶ What does it mean to be a child of God?
- ▶ How does someone become a child of God?



- 1 Be prepared. Make a plan ahead of time (Romans 10:14)
- 2 Use Scripture. We want to affirm that the truth comes straight from God's word (Psalm 78:4)
- 3 Share the whole gospel. Walk through the whole story with them: creation, fall, redemption and restoration
- 4 Make is a conversation. Ask them questions!
- 5 Use kids friendly language. Be cautious of using overly church words, and don't assume kids know what common church lingo means (like sin, redemption, salvation, etc).
- 6 Make next steps clear. Model for them how to pray and communication faith to Jesus
- 7 Talk about your own transformational experience!

# Do



# Don't

- 1 Put pressure on your kiddo. Salvation must come from the heart and is often an process!
- 2 Don't use languor that focuses on fear. Kids need to respond to the love and forgiveness of Jesus, not just the fear of punishment and hell.
- 3 Don't expect kids to use adult language or express adult understanding. They can understand without expressing everything in perfect clarity! Keep it simple.
- 4 Use abstract phrases like "give your heart to Jesus" or "accept Jesus into your heart." These types of things can be confusing, try and use concrete language.
- 5 Don't worry if it feels awkward!



Romans 10:14 says: *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of Whom they have never heard? Let us be faithful to help every kid everywhere hear the good news of Jesus so they can believe in Him.*

