

FAITH PATH

Make the most of your moments

Dear Parent,

One of the core values of Grace Point Fellowship is family. We honor God's design of the family being the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age-appropriate kits help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this Preparing to Lead Your Child to Christ kit, we have practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin well. We encourage you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

We have provided a video and information for this particular Faith Path step at: gpf-tx.org/faithpath/leadtochrist. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of intentional parenting and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider to be some of the best resources on the topic. If you would like additional coaching or information on upcoming Faith Path classes or events, please visit gpf-tx.org/faithpath

STEP TWO: START

Even though we make this kit available to parents of children ages five and above, few children are ready to fully understand the gospel or make a faith decision at such a young age. Use this material to prepare yourself to be ready when your child expresses interest. We've included a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. The *Prepare To Lead Your Child To Christ* video and a booklet titled *God Wants You in His Family* will make that conversation easier when the time comes.

STEP THREE: FAITH DECISION

You will also find two other items to use on that day:

- My Faith Decision: This card can be completed as a keepsake for your child's My Faith Box.
- My Child's Faith Decision: Use the return envelope to send this card to the church in order to receive a free Salvation & Baptism kit.

We hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Know that we are grateful to play a role in your family's growing relationship with Jesus.

Joyfully Partnering With You,

Danny & Lorena Rodriguez

Daniel & Lorena Rodriguez

Lead Pastors

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Your Intentional Plan

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Attend church regularly.
- Other: _____

The next step on the Faith Path is Prayer, recommended at age six. We will send an email reminder of the Prayer kit on your child's sixth birthday to guide you through this next step.

To request a physical or digital download kit for your kids' ages, visit gpf-tx.org/faithpath or stop by the Home Point Center.

Recommended Resources

- ▶ *The Faith of a Child* by Art Murray
- ▶ *Leading Your Kids to Christ: 30 Days to Prepare Your Heart* by Criswell Freeman
- ▶ *God's Great News for Children* by Rick Osborn & Marnie Wooding

HomePoint™
Building Strong Families

LEAD YOUR CHILD to CHRIST

Help Your Child Come to Faith In Christ

*"...BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS,
AND YOU WILL BE SAVED –
YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD."*

— Acts 16:31



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One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood. Some worry that they won't explain salvation properly. They might be tempted to just "leave it to the professionals" by relying on people at church or ministry events. That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and influential role when it comes to leading your child to Christ. This guide is designed to help you feel more comfortable about the process when that time comes.

Step One: Lay A Foundation

Your son or daughter grows in his or her understanding of God by developing a foundation; hearing stories from the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus and so forth. Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home; watching your example, feeling your love and learning right from wrong. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 that says, "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."

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 for a decision before he or she is ready to truly grasp the gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually ready. Young children are usually bonded to their parents in such a way that they want to please and do not have a full sense of a separate self. A child needs to understand that this is a personal decision and not just an opportunity to repeat rote answers.

Step Three: Ask Questions

If you feel your child might be ready, ask a few questions to help gauge his or her level of understanding.

For example, read Romans 6:23: "*For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

Then ask questions like, "What is sin?"

"How does your sin affect your relationship to God?"

How they respond can help you sense when your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- JESUS AS SAVIOR: The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- JESUS AS LORD: The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life.

Step Four: Guide your child in prayer for salvation

Romans 10 says, "*...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.*"

If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide him or her to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it's best to prompt using his or her own words.

If after reading through this guide and viewing the Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ video you would like additional assistance, feel free to request an appointment for you and your child to meet with a Grace Point pastor by visiting the HOME POINT Center at your campus or online at <http://gpf-tx.org/home/contact-us/>.

If your child has become a believer, please mail us the My Child's Faith Decision card to receive the free Salvation and Baptism kit. The My Faith Decision card can be used as a keepsake of this special day to store in your child's My Faith Box.