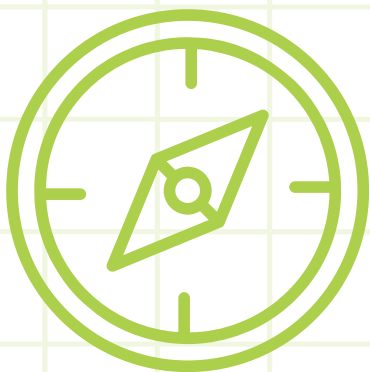




FIELD GUIDE TO FAITH

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & KIDS TO TALK ABOUT
FOLLOWING JESUS & BAPTISM



FIELD GUIDE TO FAITH

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & KIDS TO TALK ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS & BAPTISM

You are the most important spiritual influence in your child's life. Whether your kid is just starting to ask questions about God or is ready to take a step like baptism, your voice and presence matter deeply. These conversations can feel big—because they are! But you don't have to be a Bible expert or have all the answers. You just need to show up with curiosity, honesty, and love.

This guide exists to help you lead your kid into a deeper understanding of God's love and their identity in him, and it's broken up into two parts:

Part 1: Leading Your Kid to Faith in Jesus

A simple guide to explain who God is, what sin is, what Jesus did for us, and how we can respond with faith.

Part 2: Talking About Baptism

A follow-up conversation to help you talk through what baptism means, assess your child's readiness, and take next steps.

These moments matter—and you're not alone. If you have questions or need support, email us at kids@tpcc.org.



PART 1: LEADING YOUR KID TO FAITH IN JESUS

GOD MADE IT

WHO IS GOD, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Start with this:

“When you hear that ‘God is perfect,’ what do you think that means?”

The Bible teaches that God made the world and everything in it—and He made it perfectly. But He didn’t just create the world; He also created us to be in a relationship with Him.

Try this:

- Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 together and talk about what stands out.
- Ask, “What’s something in creation that reminds you of how amazing God is?” Share your own thoughts about what it means for God to be perfect.
- At this point, your kid might start wondering—if God made everything perfect, why doesn’t the world feel perfect now? That leads right into the next part of the conversation.

WE BROKE IT

WHAT IS SIN?

Ask your kid:

- “Have you ever done something you knew was wrong but did it anyway? Why do you think we do that?”
- Sin isn’t just a list of bad things people do—it’s when we choose our way over God’s way. The Bible tells us that sin started way back with Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God. That moment broke the perfect relationship between people and God, and ever since, sin has been part of our lives.

Ways to keep the conversation going:

- Read Romans 3:23 together and ask, “What do you think this verse means for us?”
- Talk about how sin affects not just our relationship with God but also our relationships with others.
- Be open about your own experiences—without a lecture! Share a time when you had to admit you were wrong.
- The good news? God didn’t leave us stuck in our sin. That’s where Jesus comes in.

JESUS FIXED IT

WHAT DID JESUS DO FOR US?

Ask:

- “If sin separates us from God, how do you think we can fix that?”
- The truth is, we can’t fix it on our own. But God loves us too much to leave us separated from Him. That’s why He sent Jesus. Jesus, who never sinned, took the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross. But He didn’t stay dead—He came back to life, defeating sin and death forever!

Ways to dig deeper:

- Read John 3:16-17 and ask, “What do these verses say about God’s love for us?”
- Use a simple visual: Imagine two cliffs with a big gap between them—one side is us, the other is God. What could bridge the gap? (Spoiler: Jesus!)
- Ask, “Why do you think Jesus was willing to do this for us?”

This is where faith becomes personal. Jesus made a way for us to be close to God again, but we have to decide if we believe and accept that gift.

WE RECEIVE IT

HOW DO WE BECOME PART OF GOD’S FAMILY?

Ask:

“What do you think it means to follow Jesus?”

The Bible says that following Jesus isn’t about being perfect—it’s about trusting Him. It means believing that Jesus is who He says He is and choosing to follow Him. It’s a decision we make in our heart and declare with our life.

Things to talk about:

- Read Romans 10:9 and ask, “What does this verse say about how we receive salvation?”
- Use a real-life example: If someone gave you a gift but you never opened it, would it really be yours? Salvation is a gift—we just have to receive it.
- Ask, “Have you ever made the decision to follow Jesus? If not, what questions do you still have?”

If your kid is ready to say yes to Jesus, that’s incredible! You can pray together, but don’t force it—this is their decision. If they’re not ready yet, that’s okay too. Keep the conversation open.



WHAT'S NEXT?

LIVING OUT THEIR FAITH

Ask:

“What do you think it looks like to follow Jesus in everyday life?”

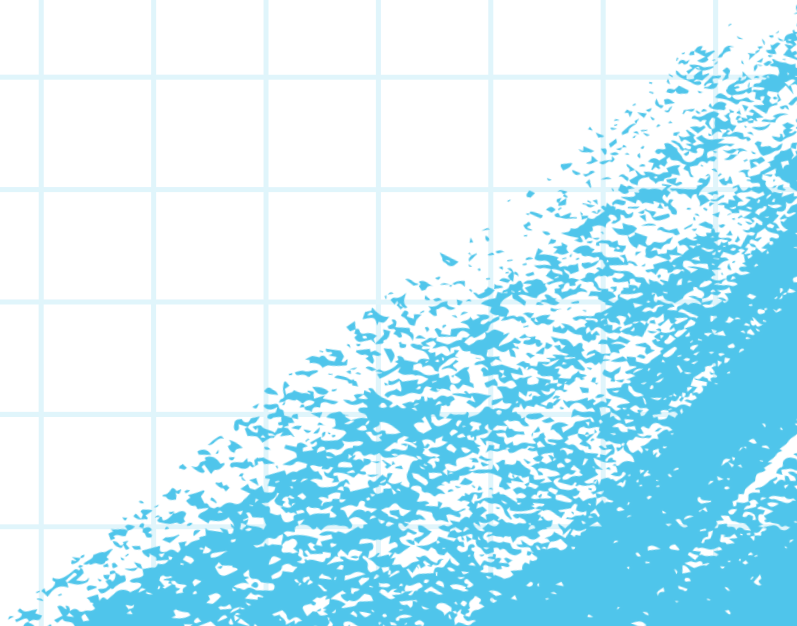
Following Jesus isn't just a one-time decision—it's a daily choice to grow in our relationship with Him. Encourage your kid to:

- Consider going all in with baptism.
- Read the Bible (try starting with the Gospel of John).
- Pray—just talk to God like they would a friend.
- Come ready to church each weekend.
- Learn to share their faith with others.
- Most importantly—keep talking about faith at home! It doesn't have to be a big, formal thing. Ask questions, wonder about things together, and be honest about your own faith journey.

This is just the beginning! Keep the conversation open, and let your kid know that you're always here to talk, wonder, and learn alongside them.



PART 2: TALKING ABOUT BAPTISM





1. ASK QUESTIONS

Instead of jumping straight into teaching, begin by understanding where your kid is spiritually. This helps you gauge their understanding and readiness while making space for an open and meaningful conversation. Here are a few open-ended questions to ask:

- What do you believe about Jesus?
- Why do you think baptism is important?
- What does following Jesus mean to you?
- What questions do you still have?

2. EXPLAIN BAPTISM

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Jesus. Here's how you can explain it:

- It's a symbol. Baptism represents Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Going under the water symbolizes dying to sin, and coming up symbolizes new life in Jesus (Romans 6:4).
- It doesn't save us. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). Baptism is a way to publicly show what has already happened in their heart.
- It's an act of obedience. Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), and He calls His followers to do the same (Matthew 28:19-20).

3. SEE IF THEY'RE READY

Every kid is on their own journey. If they understand the Gospel and have placed their faith in Jesus, they're ready! But if they're unsure, it's okay to wait and keep the conversation going. If they have more questions and you don't feel equipped to answer them, encourage them to talk with a pastor or leader who can walk alongside them.

Signs they may be ready:

- They can clearly explain their faith in Jesus.
- They understand baptism is about obedience, not salvation. They desire to take this step without pressure.

4. TAKE THE NEXT STEP

If your kid is ready for baptism, here's what to do next:

- Celebrate their decision! This is a big moment in their faith journey.
- Let them share their story. Encourage them to write down or practice explaining why they want to be baptized.
- Sign up for baptism at www.tpcc.org/baptism.

5. KEEP GOING

Making the decision to follow Jesus and going all in through baptism are just the beginning! Keep guiding your kid as they grow in their faith.