



**THE
JUMPSTART
FAITH
EXPERIENCE**



SALVATION



BAPTISM

We're here to help! If you have any questions about this resource, please contact:

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Families,

We are honored that you are reading this right now! Our desire is to partner with the family to help parents and grandparents be the spiritual guide in your child's journey with Jesus. It is our goal that your family is set up for success in having impactful faith conversations. In this booklet, you'll find helpful tips on talking with your child about their faith in Jesus.

We understand that leading your child in faith talks can sometimes seem overwhelming. That's where the Jumpstart Faith Experience comes in. This booklet is designed to be a guide to help you have meaningful conversations with your child, conversations that will help them grow in their understanding of Jesus. Even if you don't know much about the Bible, this booklet will help you understand what it means to have Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life.

For some families, this experience will lead to your child's decision to place his or her faith in Jesus - while others may discover their children aren't quite ready to make that decision. No matter which case is true for you, these conversations can serve as stepping-stones to a greater understanding of faith and will be memorable moments as you walk this journey alongside your child. It is our prayer that this booklet will equip you to have a family experience that will have a lasting impact on your child as well as the entire family.

It's important to understand that the environment you set for the Jumpstart Faith Experience will set the tone for your child to receive what the Holy Spirit is teaching them. We realize that sometimes, no matter how much planning you put into something, things don't always go as planned. Be encouraged that it's okay! Trust in the prompting and working of the Holy Spirit through this experience.

We absolutely love being a part of seeing kids come to know Jesus as their personal Savior - and we know how much more special that moment is for the family! We are blessed to be a part of this journey with your family!

The Kids World Team

PREPARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

As a parent you likely spent countless hours preparing for the birth of your child: reading books, painting the nursery, praying over your unborn child, and picking out the perfect outfit to wear home from the hospital.

Preparing for a spiritual birth in the life of your child is equally exciting and requires planning. The suggested steps below will help you prepare for your Jumpstart Faith Experience. Thankfully, as parents you have the help of the Holy Spirit to equip you for this as well as prepare your children for this moment. Be cautious to not put the salvation of your children solely on your shoulders. You are called to teach the Gospel and to live it out, but you should not force it. Their salvation is ultimately their decision, a commitment that is between your child and God.

Salvation is a beautiful, grace-filled gift. It's a gift that will empower your child to discover the plan and purpose God has for them. As you share the joy of salvation, do so seeking the wisdom of God. You can entrust your children to Him and remember that their salvation is not by your doing, but by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Be gentle and patient with your children as God lavishes the same on you.

PRAY

Spend time in prayer asking God to direct the conversation you'll have with your child and to open your child's understanding to hear Him.

Pray specifically for:

- Your child to be open to discussing their faith
- God to direct the conversation throughout the night
- No distractions to come up during the experience

BIBLE VERSES

Here are a few Bible verses to read through as you prepare for your Jumpstart Faith night:

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

"And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life."

1 John 5:11-13

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."

John 5:24

"But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name."

John 20:31

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty of our sins."

Romans 3:23-24

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

Ephesians 2:8-9

"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Choose a night that will be distraction free and put the Jumpstart Faith Experience on the calendar. Start talking with your kids and family in advance about the special night you are planning. When your kids are excited about what's coming, they are more likely to get engaged during the family night discussions and activities.

Before you begin the Jumpstart Faith Experience, take care of schoolwork, housework, or any phone calls you need to make ahead of time so that this time is as relaxed and fun as possible. Put away any toys, games, phones, or electronics. Let your children know that tonight the focus is only on them.



MAKE A SPECIAL MEAL

Make the night extra special by building it around meal time. Plan a meal your child loves to eat or loves to help cook. You could also choose a meal to get the entire family involved. Below are three meal options or you can create one on your own.

Option 1: Build Your Own Pizza

Make pizza dough together (Chef Boyardee has a boxed kit.) Lay out a variety of pizza toppings, then allow everyone to build their own individual style of pizza. Play a "Breaking the Ice" game while the pizza cooks.

Option 2: Baked Potato Bar

Put baked potato toppings out on the counter. These could include butter, cheese, chili, bacon bits, or anything your family would enjoy. Give everyone a baked potato. Allow them to create their own potato for the meal. Make it a competition to see who can create a potato masterpiece with the toppings provided.

Hint: Bake potatoes ahead of time. Potatoes can be coated with a thin layer of oil, wrapped tightly in foil and placed in a crock pot. Place the potatoes into a crock pot, cover, and cook on High for 4 1/2 to 5 hours, or on Low for 7 1/2 to 8 hours until tender.

Option 3: Iron Chef Dinner

Divide your family into two teams and give each team boneless, skinless, chicken breasts in a baking dish. Put out a variety of spices and veggies that could be used with the chicken and allow each team to make their own creation. Once the chicken is ready allow every family member to taste each of the chicken recipes and vote on a winner.

BREAK THE ICE

EXPLANATION

During dinner find out how everyone's day was by playing a round of highs and lows, where everyone shares the highlights of his or her day and talks about the things that didn't go so well. Encourage everyone to be really specific. During the rest of the meal, or towards the end, help break the ice before jumping into any serious conversations about salvation by playing one of five "Dinner Games" provided.

GAMES

The Dinner Guest

Each person in your family chooses one person who they would like to invite to dinner. Then you go around the table and each person shares who they picked and why. You can play as many times as you would like. You can play several times and change up the game to ask what fictional character, animal, or book they would invite and why.

Finish the Story

Remember telephone? This game is a spin on that old favorite. Choose one person to start the story and then go around the table and have each person add to it. Use a timer to help keep it going - you must keep talking until the timer runs out, then it will be the next person's turn. Allow the person who started the story to finish it! (You could always play a quick game of telephone too!)

Pig

This game uses dice (2-4), so grab some from a game you have around the house. Each person takes a turn rolling the dice. The goal is to earn 100 points without rolling a 1. If you roll a 1 then your score is wiped out and you must start again. Choose a prize for the winner of the game. (Prizes could include a special dessert, their choice of a movie after or during the next family night, not having to help with dishes for a whole day, etc.)

Who Am I?

Each person chooses one famous person that they want to be, and when it is his or her turn begins to act like that person. The rest of the family takes turns asking yes or no questions to try to guess who the famous person is. The person who guesses correctly goes next.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

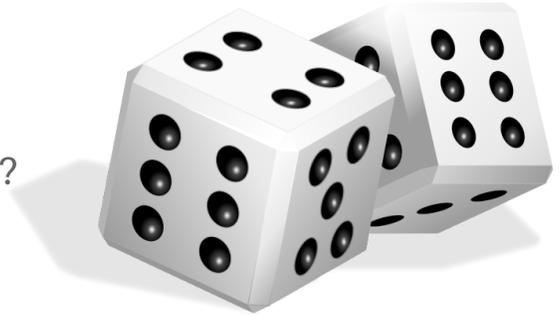
EXPLANATION

The biggest thing for you to remember is that this night and its conversations shouldn't feel forced. Use two dice to help you go through the following questions. These questions will provide you an opportunity to identify where your kids are now in their faith journeys.

Explain to your kids in advance that these questions are about their faith and if they don't know the answer then they can pass and roll a different number. It's okay if kids roll the same number twice – ask the question again and see if you get the same answer. If they roll a number more than twice allow them to roll again.

QUESTIONS

2. What have you been learning at church?
3. What is your favorite thing about going to church?
4. What has God been teaching you?
5. What do you think sin is? Why is it a big deal?
6. Can you give me examples of some sins?
7. If you had to describe who Jesus is what would you say?
8. What did Jesus do for us? Why was what Jesus did important?
9. What does it mean to say that you believe in Jesus or that you are a Christian?
10. What does it mean to be baptized? What happens when we are baptized?
11. Do you have any questions about what you are learning at church?
12. Do you have any questions about who God is and what He's done for us?



Encourage your child to express his or her own ideas and allow time for thinking and responding. It is not unusual for a child to take up to a minute or even longer to answer a question they have not had to think about previously. If some time has passed and you sense they are struggling to put their thoughts into words, rephrase the question and see if that helps.

At the end of dinner and this conversation you should have a clearer knowledge of where your child is in their understanding of God's grace and what Jesus did for us on the cross. At this point you will need to determine if your child is ready for the next section or if you need to choose an alternate action for moving forward. Use the following options to help you make a transition to the next phase of your family night.

STOPPING POINT!

What you will be looking for is your child's understanding of sin. If a child cannot understand that they sin then there is no way they can comprehend that Jesus died for their sin. If your child does not recognize that they sin - it's okay. It's hard for adults to remember when we didn't understand we did wrong things, but there was once a time we didn't know we sinned either. Don't push your child in this. They will come to the understanding of their sin before you know it.

OPTIONS

My child is still processing and not ready to make a decision tonight:

Option 1 - Pop some Popcorn. If you feel your children are still processing what it means to accept Christ as the Lord of their lives (Savior,) encourage them to continue asking questions. Remind them that you are available and happy to talk to them about Jesus any time they want to. Invite them to do a fun family activity. If needed you can use the ideas below to assist you in planning the next activity to do as a family:

- Movie Night
- Board Games
- Puzzlemania (divide into teams and see who can put a puzzle together the fastest - winners get to pick a dessert)

Option 2 - If you feel your child is ready, you can continue to the next section:

Suggested transition sentence: "I'm really impressed with all you know about Jesus and how much He loves you and what He did so that you and He can be forever friends."

NOTE: If you choose option 2 continue with the next section. If you choose Option 1, continue to have a great family night and start praying for the next opportunity to have an intentional time to share with your child.

WHAT TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT SALVATION

When God created the world, everything He made was perfect. Adam and Eve, the first people, lived close to God and everything was good. However, they then made a choice to disobey God. A choice that was wrong and brought sin into God's perfect world.

Sin is anything we do that separates us from God's glorious standards (makes God unhappy). Sin is doing what we want to do instead of what God says in the Bible is best for us. Our salvation came through a great rescue when God sent Jesus to Earth to show us how to love others and live to follow after Him so that He can be the Lord of our lives and our forever friend. When we make a decision to be a follower of Jesus, we accept His salvation.

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING SALVATION

1. When we sin, there is a consequence. The consequence (punishment) of sin is death and separation from God (Romans 6:23). Because we are separated from God, we need to be rescued, restored, and forgiven. God loves us too much to be separated from us, so He had a great plan that would rescue us and bring us back to Him. His plan was Jesus.
2. Jesus is God's son. Jesus came from heaven to be born as a baby and He never, ever sinned. I know it's hard to believe but Jesus never made God unhappy. He was perfect because He is God's son. Jesus showed us how to live to follow after Him and how to love others. Jesus became our rescuer by willingly dying on a cross to take the punishment for our sins (so we didn't have to endure that). Even though He did not do anything wrong, He took on our punishment. He died on the cross for us and then came back to life three days later because God's power is stronger than death.



Salvation defined: the act of delivering from sin or saving from evil. Rescuing someone from harm from an unpleasant situation



Willingly defined: consenting or ready

3. Jesus is alive today in heaven. Because of this, He can be the Lord of our lives and our forever friend. The Bible tells us that if we confess (tell Jesus) our sins and believe in God's great love for us, that He forgives us (Romans 10:9.) When we put our trust in Jesus and receive this forgiveness, our punishment for sin is taken away. Our relationship with God is not broken anymore, and we will one day be with Him in heaven.



3 TRUTHS TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT SALVATION

1. God created you and loves you. He has a plan and a purpose for your life that only you can fulfill. *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."* Ephesians 2:10
2. We all sin and need forgiveness but God does not forget us or leave us.
3. God sent Jesus to be our rescuer and because of Him we can be forgiven of our sins and share His love with others.

IS YOUR CHILD READY?

If you believe your child is ready to accept Jesus as the Lord of their lives, their forever friend, below is an example of a prayer you can pray with your child. Make sure your child understands that no words we can ever say will save them. It's not the words we speak to Jesus but the commitment we are making to Him that does that.

EXAMPLE PRAYER

God, thank you for loving me. Thank you for Jesus and His death on the cross and resurrection that allows me to be forgiven of my sins and to be His forever friend. Your gift of salvation shows how big and deep your love is for all of us. I want to trust you and your ways for me. Help me to follow after Jesus and to stop and thank you often. Show me how to grow closer to you through talking with you (prayer), reading the Bible, coming to church, and how to show your love to others so that they will know you too. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

YOUNGER KIDS

To prepare, you will need to cut out four shapes out of paper: a red heart, a black heart with a white heart on the reverse side, and a paper doll figure.

Say: "Did you know that God knows everything about you? He knows what you ate for breakfast. He knows which toys you love to play with, and He knows what makes you happy, and what makes you sad. And guess what: God loves you very, very much!

(Place the red heart in front of your child to represent God's love.)

In fact, God loves you so much that He wants you to be His forever friend!

But there's a problem. You and I, and everyone else in the world, are not like God. God is always good, but we choose to do bad things. We are selfish, we hurt others, and we disobey, and do other bad things God tells us not to do (Romans 3:23.)

The Bible says all the wrong things we do are called sin.

(Place the black heart before your child and explain that it represents their sin.)

Our sin does something sad to our friendship with God: it makes God seem far away, so we can't know Him very well.

(Remind your child that the red heart represents God. Move it away from the black heart.)

But listen to this: God thought of a solution! Because He loves us so much, God sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for all our sins.

(Hold up the cross: Explain that it's the same shape as the cross that Jesus died on, taking the punishment for our sins.)

Because of Jesus, all the wrong things you've ever done can be forgiven. God is just waiting for you to ask. When we tell God that we believe Jesus died for us, and then ask God to forgive our sins, and really mean it, He forgives us right away. God's Word (the Bible) says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9.)

(Place the cross between the red heart (God) and the black heart (sin.) Move the hearts to touch the cross. Turn the black heart over to the white side.)

When God forgives you, He makes you His child – one of God's special family of people who believe in Jesus. John 1:12

Once you are a part of God's family, you can talk to Him every day and be close to Him. You can also look forward to one day living with God forever in Heaven.

(Show your child that the cross makes a bridge to join the white heart with the red heart. Have the paper doll walk across the bridge made by the cross).

Here's how to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life and your forever friend.

- Admit that you need to be forgiven from your sins.
- Thank God that Jesus died to save you.
- Ask God to forgive you and help you turn away (to stop) from sin (things we do that makes God unhappy).
- Thank God that Jesus will never leave you and will be with you forever.

N O W W H A T ?

Celebrate with your child whether they made a decision to invite Jesus to be the Lord of their life or not! Either way this is a step on their faith journey with Jesus.

C O M M I T M E N T

Accepting Jesus as Lord and friend is a pretty awesome lifelong commitment, and your child needs to understand what's involved. A commitment is something you don't change your mind about. It's something to be taken seriously. It means, in this case, that you'll follow and love Jesus and live for Him forever.

Commitment defined:

A promise to do something. A promise to be loyal to someone or something. The attitude of someone who works very hard to do or support something

F E A R S

Reassure your child that any fears or concerns they have are valid. Your child may be ready emotionally and spiritually, but may have fears about doing it. Children often have fears about being made fun of by their family or friends, or may be afraid of what Jesus means to their life. Your positive reassurance of whatever fears or concerns your child has will smooth the decision-making process right along. Reassure your child that Jesus will never leave them. Tell them that God has a plan and a purpose for their life that only they can fulfill! That accepting Him is the best decision they will ever make!

3 IDEAS FOR CREATING A LASTING MEMORY

1. As you talk about what sin is, have your children share some ways they have sinned (the bad choices they have made.) On a smooth rock, write their responses with a marker. Talk about how rocks feel heavy just like sin can make us feel burdened. Take a trip to the ocean with your rocks and throw them into the water. Explain that God takes our sins and it is as if they are thrown into the depths of the ocean.

"Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean" (Micah 7:19.)

2. Share your own faith story with your children of how you came to trust in God and what that means for you.

3. Have your child write a thank you letter to Jesus for loving them so much and forgiving them of their sins. Add the date your child accepted Jesus as their Lord and forever friend on the letter and tuck it away in a Bible (yours or your child's) so that you will have that to look back on for years to come.

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU!

We want to know if your child makes a decision to accept Jesus as the Lord of their life so we can celebrate with your family! Please share with someone on the Kids World Team about your child's Jumpstart Faith Experience. When your child makes the decision to follow after Jesus, it is the BEST DAY EVER! We have a special gift just for them (including their own age appropriate Bible).

Take a picture of your night, share to social media, & tag [@kidsworldbc](#)



BAPTISM

Accepting Jesus often begins with a prayer asking for forgiveness and making a commitment to follow Him, with baptism following. Baptism isn't what gets us into heaven - it is faith in Jesus as Lord of our life that offers that assurance. Baptism is an act of obedience that should be an immediate part of our acceptance of the gift of grace offered by Jesus Christ.

However, due to fears in children, baptism may happen right away or may not happen for several years after your child has made a decision to follow Jesus.

Baptism can be confusing for kids. They see it in church and read about it in the Bible, but rarely does anyone take the time to explain it to them in terms they understand. The result is that kids form many false beliefs about what baptism is and why it's important.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO EXPLAIN BAPTISM

Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It's meant to show the world that you are on God's team, that you love, trust, and have put your faith in Jesus. It's like a **wedding ring**.

Whether you are married or not this example is one that kids can understand and correlate to what it means to be baptized.



If you are married ask: "What does this wedding ring on my finger mean?" Point to your wedding ring. Tell your kids you are married. But what happens if you take the ring off? Are you still married? Of course you are.

If you are single ask your kids: "I'm not married right now, but if I put a wedding ring on my finger, would that make me married? Of course not."

All: "Similarly, you can be baptized, but that doesn't make you a true believer and follower of Jesus. When a man and woman get married they have a wedding ceremony, but what if either of them didn't have the wedding ring on their finger? Would that mean that they weren't married? No way, of course they would still be married! You can be a believer in Jesus, but not be baptized, and all your sins are still forgiven by God."

"In the same way, if you have trusted Jesus as the Lord of your life and forever friend, then you will want everyone to know about it. So baptism is a symbol (just as the wedding ring is to a married couple) to everyone who sees it that you have trusted Jesus for your salvation and you are committed to living your life for Him."

BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL OF

- Burying our old self (our own ways) to follow Jesus
- Rising with Jesus to become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Living to follow after Him

BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE

Kids need to know that baptism does not save them. Baptism is an act of obedience and it is very important to someone who chooses to follow after Jesus. We know that baptism cannot save people because Jesus Himself was baptized! Remember that Jesus was perfect (never sinned). He did not need to be saved. (Matthew 3:13-17)

The Bible says, "All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3 -4.)

For more information on upcoming baptisms, please visit barefootchurch.com!



