How to Lead a Child to Christ

We believe it is a great honor to talk with any child about their relationship with Jesus Christ. We also believe that a child’s parents are the primary and most influential spiritual leaders in his life, so we want to involve them in the process. If a child in your Small Group expresses the desire to accept Christ, please follow these steps:

- Ask the child if he is comfortable waiting until his parents arrive, so they can be a part of the experience
- Ask your Coordinator to teach your Small Group, while you speak with the child and his parents
- Ask the parents to join you in prayer
- Read John 3:16 together
- Divide the verses into the following 4 parts to explore in detail each part’s meaning (Please use your Bible to refer to the additional verses below)
- As you move through each step with the Holy Spirit as your guide, be sure to allow the child to time to express their understanding of the verses, taking special note of their answers

God Loved: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

1. **How do you know God loves you?** Review John 3:16  
   Possible responses: Disobeying God, Breaking God’s Law, Making a decision to do those things which are wrong; against God
2. **What is sin?** “Anyone...who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.” James 4:17
   Possible responses: Sin makes you feel unhappy; Sin separates you from God
3. **Have you ever sinned?** “For all have sinned...” Romans 3:23
4. **What is the problem with sin?**
   Possible Responses: Sin makes you feel unhappy; Sin separates you from God
5. **What is God’s answer for your sin?** Jesus

Transition by saying, “God loved you before you were born (Psalm 139:13-16). He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from Him. It’s called sin. It’s the stuff we do wrong against God. Because God is perfect, there is no way we can get into God’s family on our own. Our sin separates us from God. But because God loved, He did what people in love do. He gave.”

God Gave: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

1. **What did God give us?** Review John 3:16  
   **Who is Jesus?** “Jesus answered. ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” John 14:6
   Possible responses: Jesus is God’s only son; He lives a perfect life; Jesus died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sin, and came alive again; Jesus is the only way to know God and spend forever in heaven with Him!
2. **Why did God give this gift?**
3. **What did Jesus do for us?**
Transition by saying, “God gave the most important, valuable and perfect thing He had for you. He knew that our sin would keep us out of His family forever. We’re apart from God and would stay that way, but because God loved, He gave His Son to fix that relationship. Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. He came to make a way for you to be in God’s family.”

We Believe: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

1. What does it mean to believe in something?

Say, “When you receive a gift, what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus. Believing simply means to trust. To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and live in the truth that He died for you.”

2. Do you believe that God loves you and sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay for your sins?

We Receive: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

1. What do we receive when we believe in Jesus Christ?

After they respond, say “John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. That means we get to spend forever and ever with God in a place that He made perfect. And once you receive this gift, it can never be taken away. There is nothing you can do to lose your place in God’s family!”

2. Do you want to receive the gift of Jesus into your life?

If the child responds “yes” say, “Ask HIM through prayer to come into your life to be your Savior and Lord.” Then turn to Romans 10:9 and read, “…if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

3. Have you ever prayed and asked Jesus to be your forever friend and Savior?

If the child says, “No,” say, “If you would like to pray to ask Jesus to be your Savior, I will help you. Remember that this is something that only you can decide to do. I can’t decide for you.”

4. What do you need to admit about yourself and tell God?

A. Admit that you are a sinner. Every person has sinned.
   “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23
   Sin separates us from God.
   “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ.” Romans 6:23

B. Repent of your sin.
   “Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out…” Acts 3:19

Say, “Repentance is feeling sincerely sorry for having sinned and having a great desire to turn in the opposite direction. Just as repentance is turning away from sin, faith means turning toward God. You show faith when you turn toward God and His forgiveness.”
5. Are you ready to pray and ask Jesus to be your forever friend and Savior?

If the child responds “Yes” ask the parents if they would like to lead their child in prayer. However if they would prefer, you may lead the prayer. Ask the child to repeat after you:

THE PRAYER (You can use this prayer with the child as you lead them to trust Christ.)

“Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I know my sins separate me from YOU forever. I believe your Son, Jesus, died for me. Thank you for loving me and for giving the gift of Jesus so I could live with you in heaven. I want Jesus to come into my life and be my Savior and friend. I want to follow Him and obey Him. In Jesus’ name, Amen”

“Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32

Remember:
1. We are not saved by praying a prayer.
2. We are saved by putting our trust in Christ as our Savior.
3. Saying this prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Christ for all He has done on our behalf.

If the child prays this prayer, celebrate with him/her. Encourage them to go home and take their picture; throw a party; call a friend or family member. Rejoice together and remind the child:

- Jesus has come into your life
- Your sins are forgiven
- You are in God’s family
- You have an eternal home in heaven
- You are a Christian
- You have been given the gift of faith by God (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- It is your responsibility to read your Bible, pray, live out your love for Jesus and tell others about HIM. Jesus said to his disciples...and to you, too: “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15

THE NEXT STEP: STARTING ZONE

Say, “Now that you are a Christian, you may want to be baptized! Baptism will show others what you believe! It is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is an act of obedience, and is an opportunity for you to tell others of your faith in Jesus Christ.”

“...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:19-20

“We offer a class called Starting Zone for children and their parents to attend to learn more about taking this next step of faith. At Starting Zone, you and your child will hear a presentation on John 3:16. Since your child has already trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior, you will need to attend the Starting Zone class, complete the Race Notes and then request the Baptism lesson. These three steps will guide you and your child through what Scripture teaches us about Baptism and about how to be a part of a Baptism service in Kid’s Quest.”

For a more complete explanation of Starting Zone, please go to: startingzone@mcleanbible.org