We are so excited to partner with you as you walk your child through what it means to commit their life to following Christ. There is no greater responsibility and privilege that God has given you than leading your child to Christ. We are excited for you and your child. The following are a few helpful hints to help you get started.

First, has your child asked you or indicated in some way, that they desire to follow Christ or ask Him to be a part of their life? If not, your child is not ready to make this commitment. If they have, praise God for this precious time in your child’s life. We hope this will be an occasion you and your child will never forget.

Next, read through this booklet entirely before you sit down with your child. Make sure you pray before you continue and specifically ask God to reveal examples to you that He knows will help you as you explain things to your child.

This booklet is laid out with the pages on the left for your use and the pages on the right are the ones you will go over with your child. The pages on the left provide helpful hints that hopefully will enable you to comfortably and easily discuss the basic concepts of our faith in a way that is age appropriate for your child. The pages on the right are the basic concepts you will want your child to read aloud with you and then discuss what exactly they mean in relation to God. It is important your child be able to understand each of these basic concepts before you move on. The verses noted at the bottom of the pages on the right reinforce the basic concepts of our faith. You will want to look at these verses ahead of time in your own Bible prior to reading them with your child. We highly recommend you use a current translation when reading the Bible verses with your child. Some of the best translations for your use are New Living Translation, the International Children’s Bible or the New International Reader’s Version. You may find it helpful to tab these verses beforehand.

Lastly, we recognize that not every parent feels the confidence in their Bible knowledge to believe they can accurately lead their child to Christ. Let us assure you that God trusts you with the task. Not only does He trust you, but He promises to help you. If you will believe that He desires for your child to see you as the spiritual leader of your family, then know that God will provide all the answers you will need as you discuss your faith with your child.

Now that you are ready to go, may God richly bless you for your efforts.

The Ministers to Children
StoneBridge Church
GOD LOVES EVERYONE

“For God loved the world so much ...”
John 3:16

EVEN MORE?

Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me.”
John 14:24
After reading aloud from the page on the right, what the Bible says sin is and who has sinned, ask your child the following questions and discuss various examples:

Notice on the questions below we do not actually use the word sin, just part of what it means to sin.
This is intentional as you and I do not use the word sin in our everyday conversation, however we do use the phrase “do something wrong or do something we know is not right.”

- **Say:** “Can you tell me something that you know is wrong to do?”
  Example: “Your child may say “stealing, lying, killing…”

- **Say:** “Can you give me an example of when you have done something wrong?”
  Example: said something mean, disobeyed dad, lied…”

- **Say:** “Do you think everyone does things that are wrong sometimes?”

Remember to explain that everyone on earth has sinned. See Romans 3:23

That means moms, dads, pastors, teachers, and friends, as well.

You would be surprised how many children think parents or especially ministers have not sinned.
It is critical that you admit to your child that you too mess up and sin just like they do.
What is sin?

- Disobeying God
- Breaking God's Laws
- Doing something we know is wrong

Who has sinned? Everyone!

“All have sinned...”
Romans 3:23
Tell your child that when we disobey God it separates us from Him and that since we are ALL sinners, not one of us is good enough to live with God in heaven. Have your child (if they are able to) read the Bible verse from Romans 3:23.

Discuss the consequences of disobeying at home, school, and community. (give examples)

Say: “What happens when you disobey me here at home?”

Ask your child when they do something they know they are not supposed to do, if they should be punished for it.

Say: “Do you think people should get in trouble when they do stuff they know is wrong?”

Have your child read Romans 6:23. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. In other words, the punishment for doing anything wrong is that one day we will die and be separated from God forever.
WHAT DOES Sin DO?

Separates us from God

everyone has sinned...
Romans 3:23

"the wages of sin is death..."
Romans 6:23
Explain to your child that God doesn’t want anyone to be separated from Him and that He provided a way to fix that separation.

He sent His son Jesus to be born and live as a man, a perfect man who had never sinned.

Jesus chose to be crucified and punished for our sins when He did not deserve it. When Jesus died on the cross, He made a way for all of us to be able to live with God forever.

Give an example that your child would understand about Christ’s sacrifice. Such as the scenario of a student in their class who will be punished severely for doing something wrong, but instead they (your child) has decided that they will take the punishment for the other student, because they care for them so much.
How does God **FIX** our separation caused by sin?

**Jesus!**

*that Jesus came to take away our sins...*
1 John 3:5

*For God loved the world...*
John 3:16-17

*No one can come to the Father except through me...*
John 14:6
Dear God,
I know I have done wrong,
and I cannot save myself.
But, right now,
as best I know how
I ask you
to come live in my heart
and forgive my sins.
I want to live forever with you
in heaven
and I know
I can only live forever
with you
if I believe that Jesus died
on a cross
for my sins
and rose again
to live forever with you.
I know in my heart
that when I believe in Jesus,
I will never be separated from you.
Help me to obey you
and want to do what is right.
Thank you for loving me,
In Jesus’ Name,
Amen
Admit that I have sinned
“For everyone has sinned...”
Romans 3:23

Be sorry for my sin
repent of your sins and turn to God,
so that your sins may be wiped away.

Believe in Jesus
“confess ... and believe in your heart ... you are saved.”
Romans 10:9-10
Explain to your child that God’s spirit is living inside them to help them make good choices and obey God.

**Older children**—explain that through this spirit, God will speak to them and guide them.

Tell them that Jesus promised all of us he would never leave us and since his body can’t live with all of us, he sent his spirit to live in us.
What does God promise us?

God gives you His own Spirit
(Holy Spirit is placed in you by God)

“Giving you the Holy Spirit.”
Ephesians 1:13 (NLT)

You are a child of God
(This is what it means to be a Christian)

“...become a child of God.”
1 John 5:1 (NLT)

You will live forever with God in heaven

“In my Father’s house.”
John 14:2-4 (NIV)

“Today, you will be with me...”
Luke 23:43 (NIV)

“...future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

“...bodies that will never die.”
1 Corinthians 15:52-53 (NLT)
After reading, “Should I be Baptized,” explain to your child that Baptism is a symbol that they have asked Jesus to be their savior.

Explain that it’s like a wedding ring, a symbol of marriage and commitment.

Do this by showing them your ring if you are married.

Say, “Why do I wear this ring?”

Say,” If you take this ring off are you still married?”

The wedding ring does not make a couple married, but it symbolizes that the person wearing it wants everyone to know they are married. When we are baptized it symbolized that we love Jesus and desire to obey Him and we too want everyone to know.
Should I Be Baptized

When you have asked God to forgive you of your sins, trusted Christ Jesus to save you and be able to wipe away all your sins, the Bible says it is only natural that you would tell others what has happened to you.

Telling others is called Professing your Faith

It literally means letting someone else know what I believe to be true.

There are two ways the Bible mentions people doing this. They are:

Telling someone when asked

“Everyone who acknowledges me...”
Matthew 10:32-33

Being Baptized

“...go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them...”
Matthew 28:19-20
Parents, with each of these expectations, discuss with your child how they can make a plan to follow through.

Example:

- Read the Bible together at night
- Prayer time
- Devotions in the morning
- Keeping a Prayer journal
- Going to church regularly
- Sharing their faith with friends

Remind your children that they will sin again, but they will always be a child of God’s now. However, just like we say we are sorry when we do something to hurt someone’s feelings, we need to always ask God to forgive us when we know we have done wrong. Part of growing up to be the person God designed us to be occurs when we want to change and not disobey God.
HOW TO BECOME ALL GOD’S PLANNED FOR ME TO BE

Continue to desire to do what is right in God’s eyes
“hidden your Word in my heart.”
Psalm 119:11

Read your Bible
“This book of instruction…”
Joshua 1:8

Pray
“Hear me as I pray…”
Psalm 27:7-8 1:8

Practice doing what you know is right in God’s eyes
I hereby record that on this day
______ of ______________ , 20_____.

before_______________________________________
that I stated my Faith in Christ Jesus and I believe that He is
the only way to know God and be recognized by God as His
child.
I believe the Bible clearly says that Jesus Christ is the only way
to God and that what the Bible says is true.
Because I desire to follow God and do the things that are
good and right in His eyes I have on this day, made a decision
to give my life to God and Christ Jesus, His one and only son,
who died on a cross for my sins.
I have also asked God to forgive me of my sins
and I believe He is faithful to forgive my sins.
Because of my belief in God, I desire to be baptized and
express my love for God.

_____________________________________   ___________
Signed                                          Date

_____________________________________   ___________
Witness                                         Date

Please sign both the left and right copies and keep the one
above for your records and turn into the church office the
duplicate form on your right. Someone will be contacting you
concerning our next baptism date.

Congratulations on becoming a child of God and a
follower of Christ Jesus!
I hereby state that on this day

_____ of ______________ , 20______.

before_____________________________________

that I stated my Faith in Christ Jesus and I believe that He is
the only way to know God and be recognized by God as His
child.
I believe the Bible clearly says that Jesus Christ is the only way
to God and that what the Bible says is true.
Because I desire to follow God and do the things that are
good and right in His eyes I have on this day, made a decision
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who died on a cross for my sins.
I have also asked God to forgive me of my sins
and I believe He is faithful to forgive my sins.
Because of my belief in God, I desire to be baptized and
express my love for God.

_____________________________________   ___________
Signed                                      Date

_____________________________________   ___________
Witness                                     Date

As the parent of the above stated child,
I would like to use this opportunity to make my public profes-
sion of Faith in Jesus Christ
and would like to be baptized along with my child
as an expression of my commitment to God.

__________________________________  ___________
Print  Name                      Date