



## Salvation Weekend

As a servant you may have the opportunity to lead a child to Christ and we need to be ready to present the gospel to children at any given time. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of each month, we will have the opportunity to present the salvation message during large group time to our Ginghamburg Kids. Before we can present this each month, there are a few things you should know about leading a child to Christ.

Many children will not fully understand the meaning of salvation, but as leaders we need to be clear about what a child needs to know about the importance of Christ's death and resurrection.

- Children need to know that God loves them.
- They need to admit that they have made wrong choices and that God says it is sin and must be punished.
- Children need to know that God sent Jesus to take the punishment for those sins.
- A child should then be able to tell God that they want to live for him and ask Jesus to be their Savior.

If you have a child who expresses interest in knowing Jesus and understands the above content, he/she is ready to be saved. Remember to keep in mind that the response from our kids needs to be genuine to God and not because the child wants to please you or their peers. Be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work within the child.

The gospel message can be presented in a variety of ways, but for children we recommend using the "ABC's of Salvation" as a guide for what to say when presenting the message to our Ginghamburg Kids.

### ABC's of Salvation

**Admit that you're a sinner...**

"For all have fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

**Believe that Jesus died for you and is the Son of God...**

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

**Confess your sins and claim that Jesus Christ is Lord over your life, welcoming him into your heart...**

“That 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.”

Romans 10:9-10

**Prayer:**

**Dear Jesus, I know that I have made some wrong choices. I believe that you died for my sins and arose from the grave. I now turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I receive You as my own Savior and I will follow You as my Lord. Amen.**

Once a child makes the decision to commit their life to Jesus and says the prayer above, you may then use the Decision Booklets located in every classroom closet to be sent home with the child on Salvation Weekends (located on the small group tables). Explain to the parents that their child has expressed interest in making this decision and can take the booklet home, discuss it together and return it with the parent’s signature. Upon receiving the book back, refer to a staff member so that we can ensure their hand print goes up on our Commitment Wall.

Your job is not yet done! Our goal as Ginghamburg Kids Leaders is to lead children into a personal relationship with the Lord and then spend time discipling them. Help our children grow in their faith and prepare them for a successful Christian adulthood.

### **Understanding the Concept of Grace**

We define grace for children in our ministry as getting something great that you don’t deserve. Judgment and reward are both based on the idea of getting something you do deserve. But grace is different entirely. Grace totally tips the scale in your favor. Grace isn’t fair. It isn’t balanced. Grace is a gift that is undeserved and unearned. The story of a rebellious son that got a party when he should have gotten the 1st Century equivalent of “grounded for life” or the straying sheep with a shepherd who never gave up the search even if it meant leaving 99 other sheep waiting are just a few examples of the amazing grace that is given through Jesus.

### **Key Words to Explain**

**Sin** doing wrong things or disobeying God’s rules

**Confess** tell God about the wrong things you have done

**Saved** to become part of God’s family

**Forgive** to take away the punishment of doing wrong

**Everlasting Life** to live now and forever with Jesus

**Grace** is a gift that is undeserved and unearned.