



# Starting Line

## Coach's Guide

Use this guide to keep talking with your child at home.



*“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.” John 3:16 NIV*

## Just for Coaches

This is an exciting time in your child’s life! They’re starting to ask questions about their faith. They’re wondering about God and His love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus – some that you may struggle with yourself, or some that may not have a simple answer. But that’s ok. This is the beginning of a life-long conversation about faith. That’s why our “Starting Line” begins with John 3:16, which lays the foundation for God’s plan of salvation.

Over the next few pages, we’ll break the verse down, phrase by phrase, with some questions to help you start a conversation with your kids.

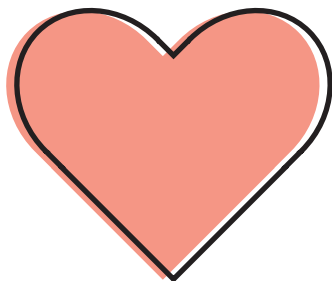
Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Salvation is for everyone – not just your kids!
2. If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, or you are not sure if you have, now is the perfect time! Why not make that important decision alongside your child?
3. Remember:
  - It’s not about being good enough.
  - We are not saved by praying a prayer; we are saved by putting our faith in Jesus as our Savior.
  - Prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Jesus for all He has done on our behalf. There is no right prayer, so don’t be worried about using the right words. Just focus on the heart behind the prayer!



# God Loved

God loved you before you were even born. He created you in His image, and He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from Him, something that keeps us from being with Him forever.



It's called sin. Sin is anything we do that is opposite of what God wants for us. It keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us. On our own, we can't do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. Because God loves us, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

## Ask Your Child:

### 1. *What is sin?*

(Anything we do that is the opposite of what God wants for us.)

### 2. *What are some examples of how you have sinned?*

(Tip: You may need to help them identify some examples, such as lying, disobeying, stealing, and even selfish thoughts....all which also apply to adults. As a spiritual leader in your child's life this is also an opportunity to share an appropriate example of how you have sinned.)

### 3. *What is the problem with sin?*

(Sin separates us from God forever. Additional reference: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 6:23 NIV**)



# God Gave Us Jesus

God gave us the most important, valuable, and perfect thing he had. He knew that our sin would keep us from being a part of His family. We're separated from God and we couldn't come back to Him on our own.



But because God loves us, He gave His son to fix that relationship. Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again. Jesus came to make a way for us to be in God's story.

## Ask Your Child:

### 1. *What did God give us?*

(Jesus, to save us from our sin. Additional Reference: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." **John 3:16 Nlrv**)

### 2. *Why did God give this gift?*

(Because He loves us and wants to fix our relationship with Him. Additional Reference: "See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God." **1 John 3:1 Nlrv**)

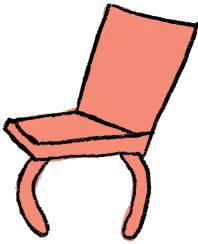
### 3. *What did Jesus do for us?*

(He paid the price for our sins. Additional Reference: "But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **Romans 5:8 Nlrv**)



# We Believe in Jesus

As we learned in Starting Line, when we receive a gift, we open it. We've learned that Jesus gave us the gift of salvation. God says you can open His gift by believing in Jesus and asking Him to forgive you.



Believing simply means to trust. It's a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight on it. You trust that it will hold you up. That's what it's like to believe in or to trust in this gift. To open the gift that God gave you, you trust in Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.

## Ask Your Child:

### 1. *How do we trust in God?*

(We believe that He won't fail us, and that what He says is true.)

Additional Reference: "But I trust in Your faithful love. My heart is filled with joy because You will save me." **Psalm 13:5 NIV**)

### 2. *How do you know God loves you?*

(He sent Jesus to die for us. Additional Reference: "Here is what love is.

It is not that we loved God. It is that He loved us and sent His Son to give His life to pay for our sins." **1 John 4:10 NIV**)



# We Receive Eternal Life with Jesus

John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. When you believe in Jesus and trust Him to save you, you begin a new relationship with God that starts right away and goes on forever. It's sad but true that someday we will all die. The great news is that we will get to spend forever and ever with God in a place that He made perfect – Heaven.



**Question:** Are you ready to step across the starting line of faith and accept Jesus as your leader, forgiver, and friend?

You can use the following prayer with your child as you lead them to trust Jesus. There's nothing magical about this prayer; it's simply a guideline to help you get started!

*“Dear Heavenly Father,*

*I know I am a sinner. I know that my sins separate me from you. I believe your Son, Jesus, died for my sins. Thank you for loving me and for giving me the gift of Jesus so I can live with you in Heaven one day. Please come into my life, forgive me of my sins, and be my Lord and Savior. I will follow you the best I know how for the rest of my life.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.”*



# What Now?

If you have chosen to put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater decision that you could make.

This decision is going to change the rest of your life as you choose to follow Jesus. We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. It doesn't save you, but it's the first step of obedience in following Jesus. Baptism is also a symbol of what God's done in your life. It's your way of telling your friends and family, "Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!"

**Parents:** To help your child understand more about what baptism is, we want to encourage you to work through the "All About Baptism" kids guide. Use the "All About Baptism" Coach's guide to help guide your child through this conversation. Always remember that we are here to partner with you in helping your child understand this important step.

If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, please talk to a Christ Fellowship Kids staff member about next steps! If your child (or anyone else in your family) is ready to get baptized, you can sign up for the next baptism opportunity by visiting [www.christfellowship.church/baptism](http://www.christfellowship.church/baptism).

*"So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."* **Matthew 28:19-20**





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