



How to Know if Your Child is Ready for Salvation



Parents often wonder, “How do I know if my child is ready for salvation?” We want exact formulas but each child is different, and there is no specific age mentioned in the Bible. We must remember that “we” cannot “save”; only God can. But, is there something a parent can do?

Lay a good foundation. Begin as early as possible telling them about Jesus and His great love. Here are a few important Bible truths they need to know.

- God loves you and wants you to be with Him forever. (John 3:16)
- We have all sinned and gone our own way. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God’s rules. (Romans 3:23)
- Sin must be punished. Sin separates you from God. (Romans 6:23)
- Even though you sin, Jesus loves you and took the punishment for your sin on the cross. (Romans 5:8)
- Anyone who believes in Jesus (and what He did) and accepts Him is adopted into God’s family and will have their sins forgiven. (John 1:12)

Make sure they understand personal sin. If there is no awareness of personal sin, a child may not have been convicted by the Holy Spirit. Children are not saved differently than adults; the Holy Spirit must convict all of us. Watch how children react when they sin. For some, realization comes slowly and is simply an awareness of their sin; for others, it is deep remorse. Young children are often unwilling to admit they have sinned – even though you know they have. We can explain what sin is (breaking God’s rules) and point out examples of sin, but it is the Holy Spirit who must convict each one of sin.

Ask questions and encourage them to tell you what they understand and believe.

- *Why did Jesus die on the cross?*
- *Why do you need to be saved?*
- *What do you want Jesus to do for you?*





When you are sure they understand, invite them to pray with you. Either have them repeat a prayer after you or guide them to know what to say. (Dear Jesus, I admit I have sinned against You. But I also believe You died and came alive to take away my sins. Please forgive me. Thank you. Amen)

Give an assurance verse. Our faith in Jesus rests on His Word, the Bible; it does not rest on how we feel. Some good verses to read together are: Romans 10:13, John 1:12, 1 John 5:13. Ask: **Did you do what the verse said?** (Call on His name, believe, accept, ask) **What does the verse say God will do?** (He will save; He will forgive sin, He will give eternal life, etc.)

Write down the date so you can remember this special day (and celebrate it every year). Then encourage them to tell someone who will be happy for them.