

COLUMBUS CHURCH OF CHRIST



# FAITH AT HOME

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

## Introducing Your

## CHILD TO CHRIST

One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood.

That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to nurturing your child's faith. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the when and how of introducing them to Christ.

### STEP ONE - Lay a Foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation; hearing the stories of the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth. Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home; watching your example, feeling your love, learning right from wrong. These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 that says, *"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* Don't worry if your child hasn't grown up in church because your family is new to the faith. It is never too late to start.

### STEP TWO - Discern Readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure

they are ready in both heart and head and can truly understand the gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually mature enough to make a commitment.

### STEP THREE - Ask Questions

When you feel they are ready, ask a few questions to help gauge your child's level of understanding. Read Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."* Then ask questions like, *"What is sin?" "How does your sin affect your relationship to God?"* and *"How can you be right with God?"* How they respond can help you sense whether your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- **Jesus as Savior:** The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- **Jesus as Lord:** The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life.

If after reading through this information, you would like additional assistance feel free to request an appointment for you and your child to meet with a minister (662) 328-6084

### STEP FOUR - Guide Your Child Into Repentance Followed by Baptism

Acts 2 tells us, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off- for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39). If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is and what it leads to, as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide your child to repent (a change of mindset that leads to a change in behavior) or turn away, from sinful living.

### Prepare Them for Baptism

Once your child has understood and decided to accept God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, it is time to baptize them by immersion in water. When baptized, we die to sin and are resurrected to eternal life with Christ when we come out of the water (Romans 6). Baptism can be done at the church building baptistery or in any body of water, and it can be performed by anybody, whether a family member, friend, or minister.

## GOING FURTHER

### RESOURCES

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#### *Multiply*

by Francis Chan

an introduction to faithful living as a follower of Christ

## GOING FURTHER

### COLUMBUS CHURCH of CHRIST SUPPORT

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#### **Meet With a Minister**

Our ministers are available for appointments and happy to help you discern whether your child is ready for baptism into Christ. If you'd like to meet with a minister call the office (662) 328-6084

#### **Faith Path: Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ (Coming this Summer)**

This kit is available for download or pick-up from the Faith at Home Center. It includes training tools to help you gain confidence as you lead your child to faith.

#### **Faith Path: Salvation and Baptism (Coming this Summer)**

This kit is available for download or pick-up from the Faith at Home Center. It includes training tools to help you gain confidence as you lead your child to faith.