

LIVING FOR JESUS

A Conversation Guide for Kids and Parents





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A NOTE TO PARENTS

When your kids start asking questions about salvation, it's a pretty exciting moment! As parents, you not only get a front-row seat to see your kids grow in their relationship with Jesus, but you also get to play an important role in helping them understand what salvation is all about and what it means to follow Jesus.

We've made this booklet to help you have meaningful conversations with your child about the amazing things God is doing in their life. Inside, you'll find essential Biblical truths, questions for you and your child, and Bible verses to help explain salvation and its importance. Don't worry, you don't have to be a Bible scholar to do this!

As you go through this booklet together, you'll figure out if your child grasps why salvation is a big deal and what it means to follow Jesus. By the end, you'll know if they're ready to make a personal commitment to Jesus and take the next step in their faith journey.

Choosing to follow Jesus and accepting salvation is a personal choice. There's no rush, and everyone grows and learns at their own pace. The most important thing to remember is that you are your child's greatest source of support and guidance. Being patient is key, both with your child and yourself. Sometimes, they might ask questions you don't have the answers to. When that happens, just remember to pray, look to the Bible, and if you need extra help, reach out to someone at church - they're there to help you out!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Parents, here are a few things to keep in mind as you work through this booklet:

1 **Set a Time!**

Choose a regular time that works for both you and your child to explore the salvation booklet together. This could be during bedtime, in the morning, or another convenient time. Consistency is key, so stick to your schedule.

2 **Guide the Journey!**

Take the lead in facilitating your child's understanding of salvation. Encourage them to ask questions and express their thoughts. Make it a safe and open conversation where they can explore their faith.

3 **Preparation Matters!**

Familiarize yourself with the content of the booklet before you start. Gather any necessary materials, such as a Bible, a notebook, or any specific items mentioned in the booklet, to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted session.

4 Take Your Time!

Enjoy the process of discovering and discussing salvation with your child. Use this time to strengthen your family's connection with God and the Bible. Don't rush; let the conversation flow naturally.

5 One Step at a Time!

The salvation booklet may have different sections, some focused on reading and others on activities or discussions. Take it at a pace that suits your child's attention span. It's okay to work through one section at a time or break longer sections into manageable parts.

6 Pray Together!

Begin and end each session with a heartfelt prayer. Ask God to guide your discussions, deepen your understanding of salvation, and create special moments together as a family. Prayer can be a powerful way to connect with God and each other.

Remember that the key is to foster a nurturing environment for your child to explore their faith and develop a personal understanding of salvation. Adapt these steps as needed to suit your child's age and comprehension level, and enjoy the journey of growing together in faith.



PART 1

PREPARING THE SOIL





THE ABCS

PART 1:
Preparing
The Soil

PARENTS: Has your child ever given their life to Christ, or maybe they don't understand what that decision means? You can use the ABCs below to help you work through any uncertainty or confusion they might have. These are three knowledge-based actions that can help kids understand what it means to have a relationship with Jesus.

A - Admit you need Jesus.

We all need Jesus, and we all need His sacrifice to save us from our sins. Admitting we need Him can be hard because we think we can do things on our own, but without God, we would never be able to overcome our sin!

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;”
Romans 3:23

B - Believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Jesus lived a perfect life! He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins so we could spend eternity in heaven with Him.

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:5-6

C - Choose to follow Jesus.

When you choose to follow Jesus, you're asking Him to forgive your sins and be the leader of your life. This is the biggest decision you could ever make, and God will use it to change your life forever!

“One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.”

Romans 10:10

Now, let's take a look at three other foundational truths that are directly tied to the ABCs — faith, forgiveness, and salvation!



FAITH

Believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

PART 1:
Preparing
The Soil

Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God. When we have faith in Jesus, that means we believe He is who He says He is: the Son of God who died to forgive our sins and was raised from the dead three days later!

Paul explains the importance of faith in

Ephesians 2:8-9:

“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift— not from works, so that no one can boast.

Jesus’ death on the cross paid for our sins, but salvation requires something from us too — in order to be saved and follow Jesus, we have to believe He died for us and forgave our sins. This faith is the first step: When you express your belief in God on your own, then you know He is working in your life.

For more about faith, check out

John 3:16 and **Acts 4:11-12.**

Discuss these questions together:

- 1** What are some things you believe in, even though you can’t see them?
- 2** Why did Jesus die?
- 3** Do you believe Jesus is God’s Son?



FORGIVENESS

Admit you need Jesus.

PART 1:
Preparing
The Soil

Sometimes it's hard to understand what we need to be forgiven for, even if we've already said a prayer to be saved. So, before making the decision to follow Jesus, we should understand what sin is and why we need God's forgiveness.

Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God, and the Bible says we've all sinned. In **Genesis 3**, Adam and Eve were the first ones to sin, disobeying God by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. Everyone who has ever lived has sinned and needs forgiveness from God.

Ephesians 1:7 explains how God forgave our sins:

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.”

Sin requires forgiveness, which has been freely offered to us through the grace of God! For more about forgiveness, check out **Colossians 1:13-14** and **1 John 1:9**.

Discuss these questions together:

- 1** Has everyone sinned? Even you? Even really nice people?
- 2** What did Jesus do to forgive our sins?
- 3** Will God forgive us if we trust Jesus to save us? Why?



SALVATION

Choose to follow Jesus.

PART 1:
Preparing
The Soil

Salvation and baptism are two different things. Salvation is the decision to follow Jesus, while baptism is showing people you've made that decision. Salvation happens the moment you decide to believe Jesus is the Son of God, admit you need Him to be your Savior, and follow Him through your words and actions. From that moment on, you are a Christian!

Ephesians 4:32-5:2 tells us how to follow Jesus:

“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

Choosing to follow Jesus means living a life that follows His example in the Bible. As Christians, we should do our best to be like Jesus, but we should also remember He's perfect and we're not! Even after you become a Christian, you're going to make mistakes. The important thing is that you continue to follow Him, even when you mess up. Placing our faith in Jesus isn't an event — it's a practice. Salvation is a decision we make one time, but following Jesus is a choice we make every day!

For more on salvation, check out **Galatians 2:20** and **1 Peter 3:21**.

Discuss these questions with your child:

- 1 What does it mean to be saved?
- 2 Was Jesus perfect?
- 3 Why is it important to live how Jesus lived?



PART 2

UNDER THE
SURFACE

SALVATION TRIVIA!

Before we dive into baptism, let's see what you already know about it. Don't worry, it's not an actual test! This is just a little quiz to help you get a better idea of what baptism is.

Directions: Are the statements below true or false? Read each sentence, then circle your answer. For the answer key, check out the next page!

- 1** True or false: You have to say a specific prayer to become a Christian.
- 2** True or false: Salvation involves a personal commitment to follow Jesus.
- 3** True or false: Jesus' teachings and stories are found in the Bible.
- 4** True or false: You become saved when you believe in Jesus and accept Him into your heart.
- 5** True or false: The concept of salvation is mentioned numerous times throughout the Bible.

SALVATION TRIVIA ANSWER KEY

1. **False!** You can become a Christian by saying a specific prayer, but it's not the only way. Salvation involves a personal commitment to follow Jesus. (Romans 10:9-10)
2. **True!** Salvation involves a personal commitment to follow Jesus, and baptism is often done by being lowered into and raised out of water, symbolizing Jesus' death and resurrection. (Romans 6:4)
3. **True!** Jesus' teachings and stories are indeed found in the Bible. You can read about His life and teachings in the New Testament, particularly in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
4. **True!** You are saved when you admit you're a sinner, believe that Jesus is God's Son who died to forgive our sins, and choose to live your life for Jesus. (John 3:16 and Romans 10:9)
5. **True!** Salvation, which means being saved and loved by God, is mentioned numerous times throughout the Bible. It's God's way of rescuing us and showing us His love.



WHAT IS SALVATION?

**PART 2: UNDER
THE SURFACE**

Salvation is what happens when we decide to follow Jesus and accept Him as our Savior. It's like saying, 'Yes, Jesus, I want you to be in charge of my life!' When we choose salvation, we are following the teachings of Jesus and obeying His special commandment.

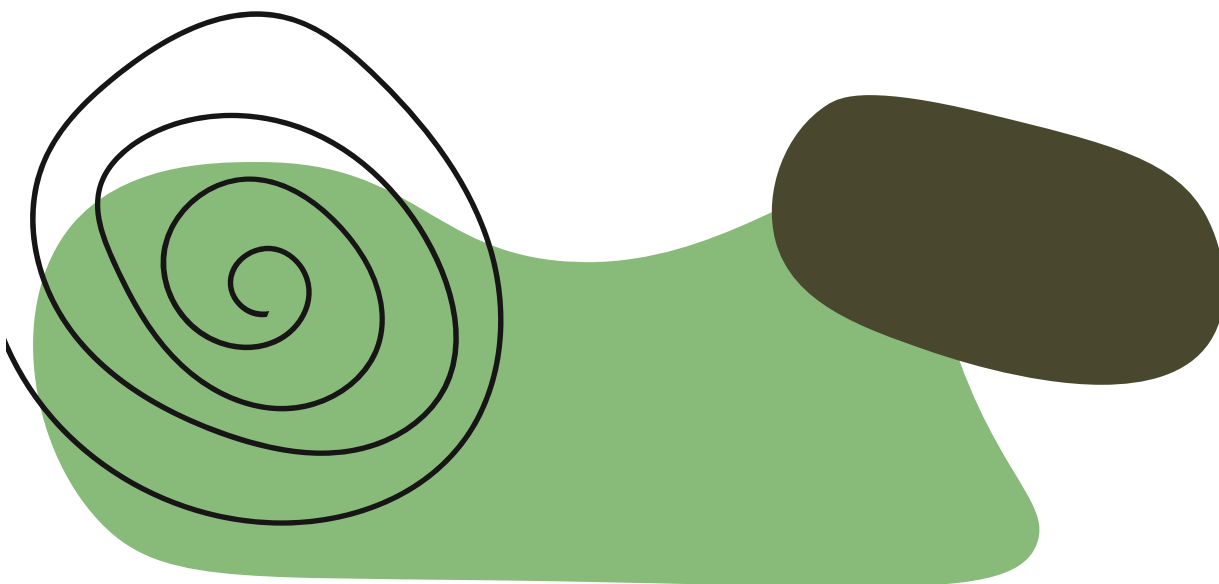
“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. “

Matthew 11:28

Just like when you wear a jersey or uniform to represent your favorite sports team or school, choosing salvation is a way to show that you're a follower of Jesus! When we accept salvation, we become part of God's big, loving family.

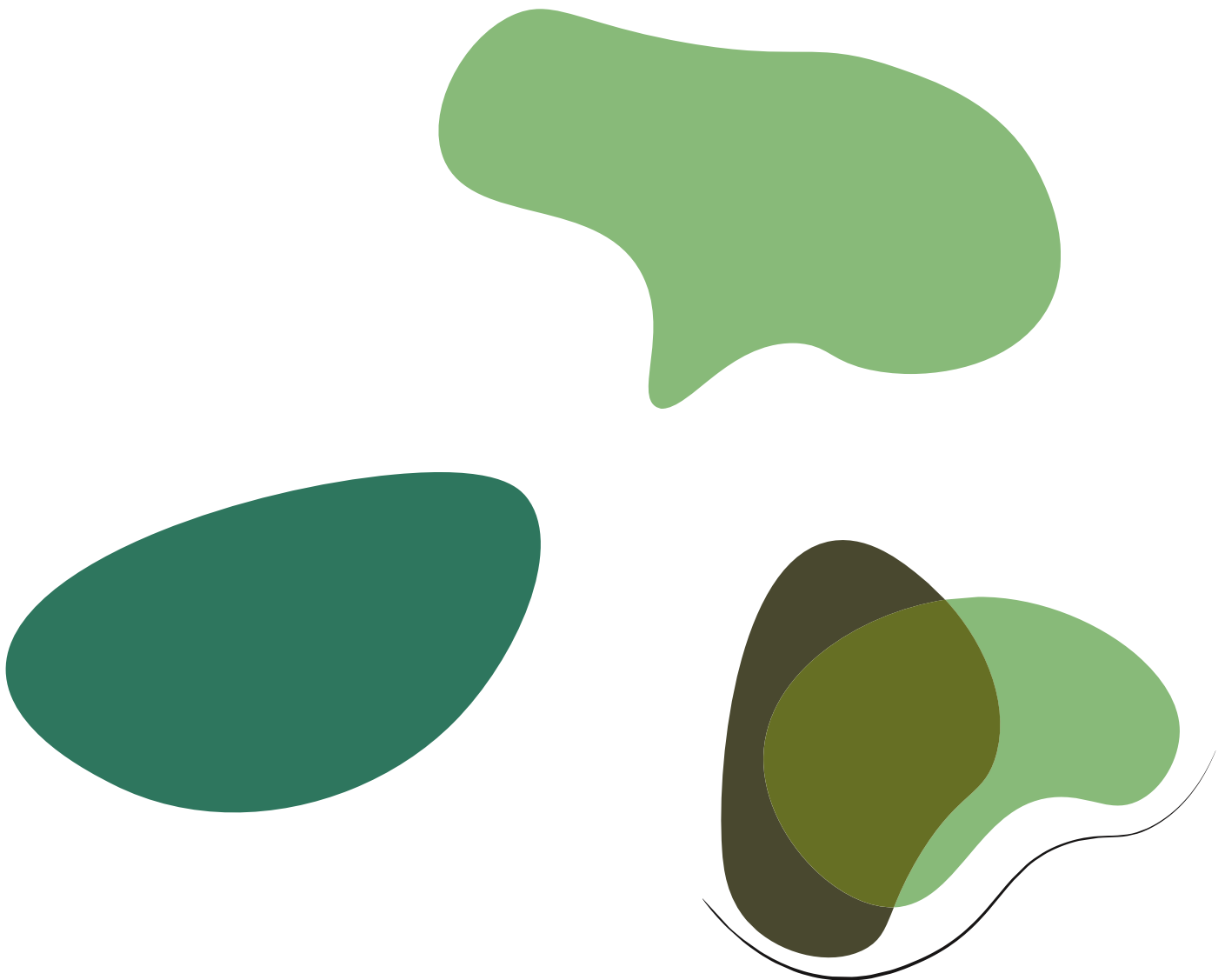
“But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name,”

John 1:12



When Jesus died on the cross, it was like He took all our mistakes and wrongdoings and carried them away. When we believe in Him and accept His gift of salvation, it's like we're being set free from all the things that weigh us down.

So, when you choose salvation, you're not just saying you believe in Jesus - you're making Him the leader of your life, and you're becoming part of God's big, loving family!



SALVATION WORD SEARCH!

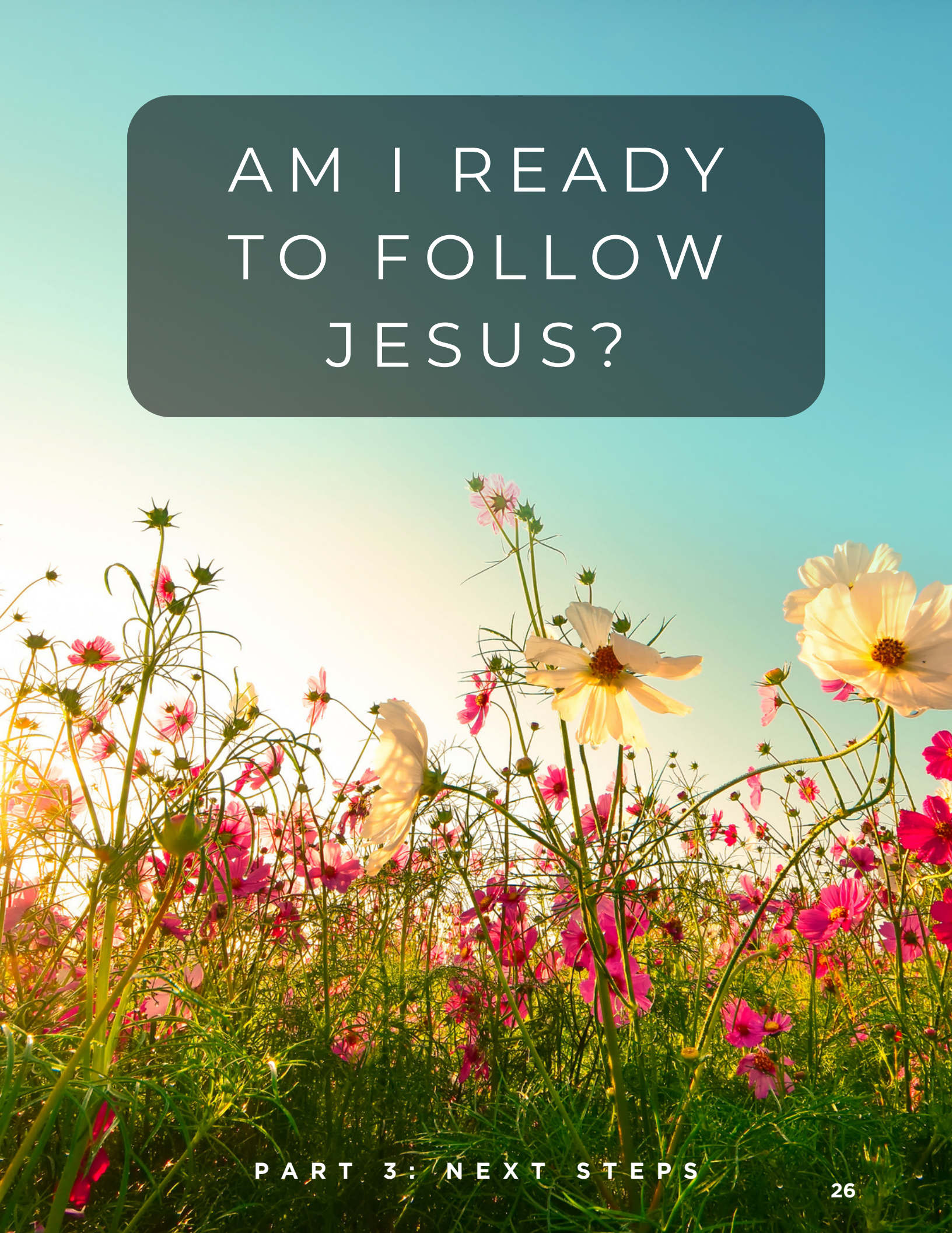
Directions: Can you find all the words from the list below?
Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, and diagonally .

F Z M O V T B X G R A C E P Q
H C F R M H M O X L R G T A C
A R E S U R R E C T I O N D R
R G F X H W X M B A B N S S O
R E H O P A T O N E M E N T S
N E D Q R S I N N E R H Q L S
P G P E J G J L F L Y E S I B
J O Q E M O I J S B O X A F E
F S B L N P X V E X V V A E L
H P U H F T T Z E O C K E C I
X E N F A V A I I N B J J N E
K L Q M I R O N O Y E C G M F
L Y S W T U O G C N N S X M Z
W Q I J H N J M V E I K S D D
J E S U S S A L V A T I O N N

Grace Faith Redemption Repentance Forgiveness Jesus
Salvation Belief Resurrection Life Love Atonement Cross
Sinner Gospel

PART 3
NEXT STEPS



A vibrant field of cosmos flowers in shades of pink and white, set against a bright, clear sky. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

AM I READY TO FOLLOW JESUS?

KIDS ONLY

Directions: Put a check next to each statement you agree with to see if you might be ready to be baptized!

- I believe Jesus is God's Son.
- I know I am a sinner and need forgiveness.
- I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive my sins.
- I have asked Jesus to forgive my sins.
- I have decided to follow Jesus and live like He did in the Bible.

If you answered "yes" to all of these statements,
then you're now a child of God!

PARENTS: If your child answered "no" to any sentence above, read through the verses on the following page together and discuss any questions your child still has. Check off the verses you've read as you work through them. The goal here is to know who Jesus is, why He died for them, and why we need to trust in Him.

1 Who Jesus is:

- Matthew 3:13-17**
- 1 John 5:6-8**
- Matthew 16:13-20**

4 Asking for forgiveness:

- Romans 6:23**
- 1 John 1:9**
- Acts 2:38**

2 Why we need forgiveness:

- Romans 3:23**
- 1 John 1:8**
- Ephesians 2:1-3**

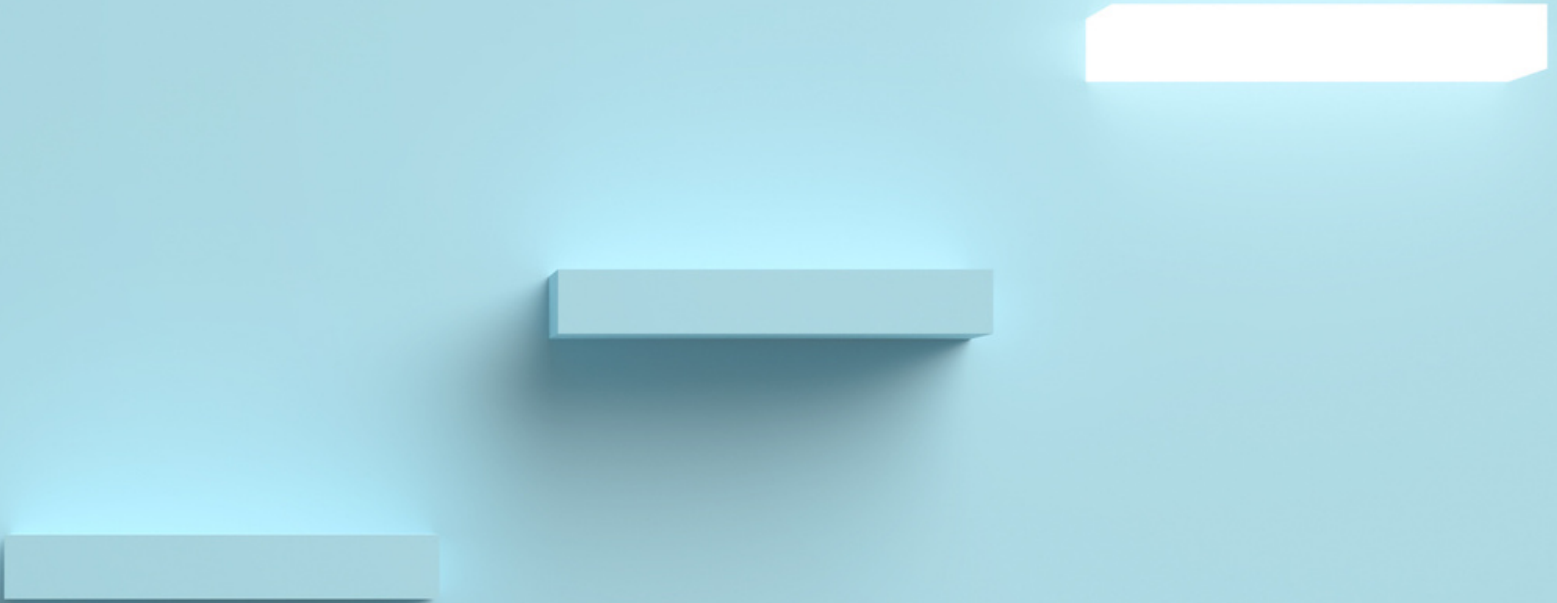
5 Following Jesus:

- 1 Peter 2:21**
- John 12:26**
- Mark 8:34-36**

3 What Jesus did for us:

- Romans 5:8**
- 1 Peter 3:18**
- 1 John 2:2**

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME?



PART 3: NEXT STEPS

FOR PARENTS

Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and in TBF Kids we encourage them to make a decision to follow Him. Our children are encouraged to not just learn about Jesus, but learn from Him by walking with Him every day.

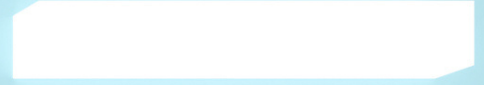
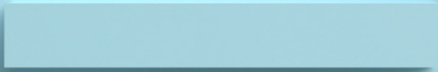
We believe if your child is old enough to understand and believe in the Gospel, they're old enough to be baptized. However, we advise parents to wait until their child asks for water baptism. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life.

While younger children under the age of seven can have a relationship with Jesus, we want to ensure they have a clear understanding of the meaning of baptism before taking this step in their faith.

When your child starts talking about being baptized, please refer to our Baptism Booklet as a resource to help walk your child understand what it means to be baptized.

At the end of this booklet, you'll see our church contact info if you wish to sign your child up to talk to our Pastor and celebrate their decision to follow Jesus. In this conversation, your child will meet with the Pastor and be asked a few questions about Jesus and their faith.

MY STORY



PART 3: NEXT STEPS

When we admit we need Jesus, believe in Him, and choose to follow Him, we're writing a story that will forever change our lives. Your story is the process of how your faith in Jesus turned into a relationship with Him, and it's unique to you! Some people have long, complicated stories, while others have pretty simple ones. And once you know your story, you can share it with other people to show them how much Jesus loves you and has changed your life!

KIDS ONLY

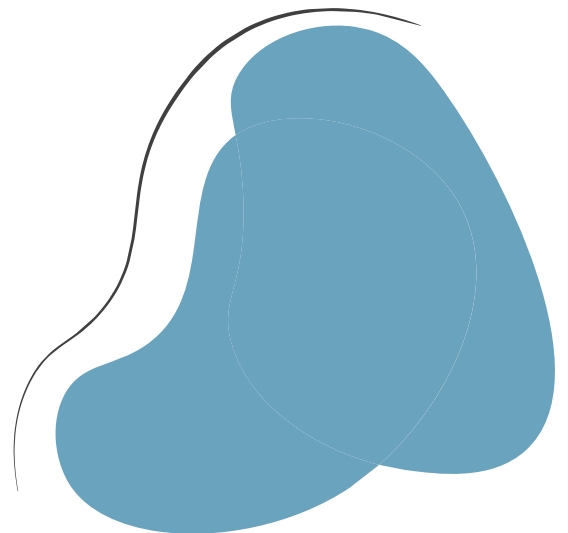
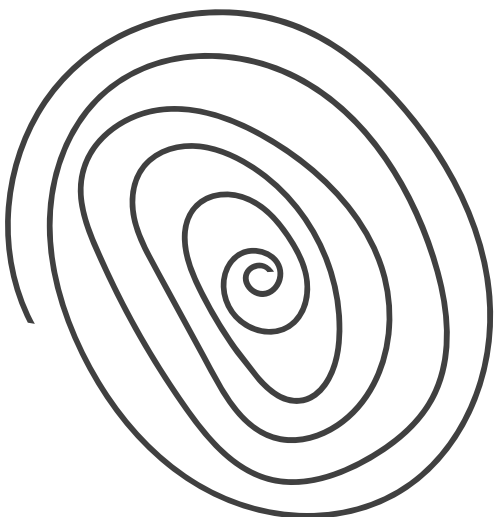
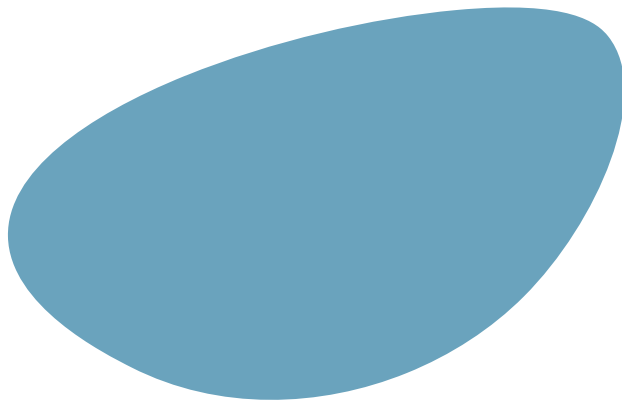
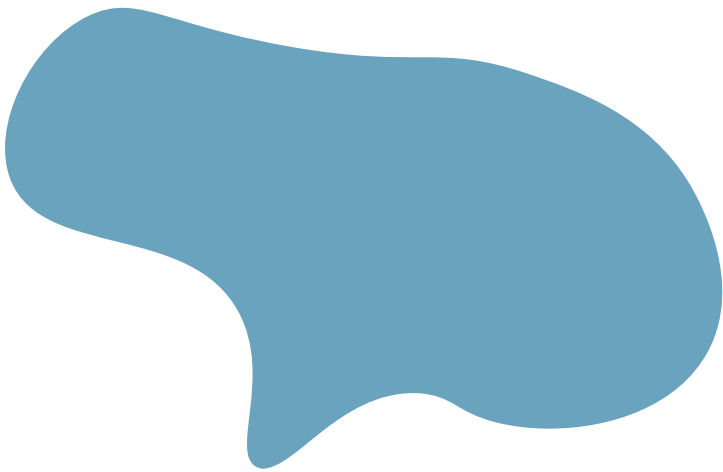
What's your story? How did your relationship with Jesus start? On the lines to the right, write out your answer to these questions:

When did you make the decision to follow Jesus?

Why do you want to be baptized?

What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?

This is an exciting time — and you have the rest of your life to learn more about Jesus and live like He did! He has a plan for you and is going to do wonderful things in and through you! We're so excited for what He's done in your life, and grateful that He's led you through this booklet. Get ready for the next part of your journey — it's going to be amazing.



READY FOR AN INTERVIEW?

Email us at info@trinitybay.org to sign up for an interview to share your story! We can't wait to hear from you and talk with you about God's work in your life.

