

Good News for Kids

This handout will help you prepare to share the Gospel with your children. It includes an outline for presenting the Gospel and Scripture references for each step. Essential tips for more effective sharing Christ with children are also provided.

Page 7 of this PDF is a kid-friendly version of the same outline. Print a copy for each child.

Good News for Kids

BAD NEWS

I. I Am a Sinner.

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned.

"For all have sinned." Romans 3:23.

Question: What is "sin?" (Anything that goes against God's standard of perfection – including bad thoughts, words, or actions).

"Sin" means "to miss the mark." Whenever we lie, hate, lust, gossip, or do anything wrong, we have missed the standard God has set.



Illustration: Suppose you and I were each to throw a rock as far as possible to try to hit the North Pole. You might throw farther than me, but neither of us would reach the goal. It's impossible.

Question: What does it mean when it says that we "fall short"? (We haven't reached God's standard. We are not good enough).

When the Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short," it means that we have all come short of God's standard of perfection. We have not been perfect in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Question:

Have you ever done anything wrong? (Yes).

Are you a sinner? (Yes).

What kinds of sins have you done?

Imagine if you sinned one time each day. How many sins would that be in a year? (365).

That's a lot of sins! Let's keep reading.

2. The Penalty for Sin Is Death.

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

Question: What is a “wage”? (It’s payment for work done).

A wage is a payment for what we EARN!

Illustration: Suppose you worked for me, and I paid you \$50. That \$50 was your wages—that’s what you earned. The Bible says that by sinning, we have earned death. That means we deserve to die and be separated from God forever. But since there was no way that we could get to God, the Bible says that God came to us!



“For the wages of sin is death...”

The penalty for our sin is “death.”

Death is another way of saying that we are separated from God. God is Holy (Perfect), so our sin separates us from Him.

That’s bad news!

Thankfully, there is also some good news.

GOOD NEWS

1. Jesus Died to Pay My Penalty.

The verse that we just read had some good news at the end.

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God is eternal life**, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.*

Question: What is the good news? (Eternal life – it is a GIFT).

But how do we get this gift if we are sinners?

Keep reading... The Bible says:

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8.

Since the penalty for sin is death, whenever sin is present, someone must die and pay the penalty of “death.” That means we would spend forever separated from God. This verse tells us that someone else died for us.

Illustration:

Suppose you are in a hospital dying of cancer. I come to visit and say, “Let’s take the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body.”

Question: If that were possible, what would happen to me? (I would die).

Question: What would happen to you? (You would live).

I would die in your place. I would die instead of you.

The Bible says that Jesus took our place. He paid the penalty we deserved (because of our sin), placed it on Himself, and died in our place. He paid our sin penalty.

Three days later, Jesus came back to life to prove that sin and death had been beaten and that His claims to be God were true. He has provided a way for us to be with Him forever. That is good news!



2. I Can Be Saved Through Faith.

The Bible says:

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16.

The Bible tells us that whoever BELIEVES in Jesus will be saved. Faith is another word for "trust" or "belief."

People sometimes are confused by what it means to believe.

Illustration

If I asked you, "What is the object in this picture?"
What would you say?

"It's a pen!"

Imagine if I said, "No. That's too easy.
You need to believe harder."

That doesn't make sense, does it?

Believing is just believing.

If you believe it is a pen, you don't need to believe "harder" or do something extra to help you believe.

If you are convinced that it is a pen, then you believe.

Illustration

Just as you trust (or believe) that a chair will hold you up through no effort of your own, when you sit on it, you must trust Jesus Christ to get you to heaven through no effort of your own. Trying to work our way to heaven is not possible.

Remember that God's standard is PERFECTION. Since we cannot reach that standard, we needed a different way.

We must believe that when Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He paid our FULL sin penalty. 100% of the cost. He doesn't want our good works. Going to church won't help pay the cost. The penalty is death, and the only way to pay the penalty is by dying. Jesus did that for us.



Illustration:

Give one of the children a gift you brought to the class.
Give them time to unwrap it.

Once they've opened it, ask them for \$5 to pay for it. Talk about their reaction/response.

We can't pay the penalty with good works. Read this verse together:

"But things are different with God. He makes ungodly people right with himself. If people trust in him, their faith is accepted even though they do not work. Their faith makes them right with God." Romans 4:5

The Bible says that our FAITH is accepted, even though they DO NOT WORK. We cannot work our way to heaven. We must trust in Jesus Christ ALONE, and God will give US eternal life as a FREE gift! If we try to pay for it, it is no longer a gift.

Question: Is it a gift if you have to pay for it? (No).
Jesus gave His life for you. He died a horrible, painful death on a cross.

Question: How much do you think that is worth?

Question: Can you work your way to heaven by doing good things? Going to Church? Being kind to a sibling? Telling the truth?

How do we know that we will go to heaven when we die? (Because God promised).

Bad News Good News

Bad News

1. I am a Sinner.

"For all have sinned." Romans 3:23.



2. The Wages of Sin is Death.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.



Good News

1. Jesus Paid my Sin Penalty on the Cross.

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8.



2. I am Saved by Believing.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16.



Tips for Sharing Christ with Children

- It's never too early to share Jesus. "Let the little children come" (Matthew 19:14).
- Always be ready. The opportunity to share Jesus can come at unexpected times.
- Always pray before sharing to prepare your own heart and theirs.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment. It's difficult sometimes to discern where a child's understanding and heart are at.
- Use the Bible to share the Gospel clearly.
- Focus on "trusting Christ" (rather than simply praying a prayer or "inviting Jesus into their heart").
- Share the Gospel presentation twice. Explain the Good News the first time. Then, review the Gospel and offer an opportunity to respond the second time.
- Encourage a child to express his or her faith (trust) in Jesus through prayer.
- Use visuals, such as a bridge illustration, a wordless book, a Gospel bracelet, or diagrams to help communicate difficult words and concepts to children.
- After a child responds to God's offer of forgiveness, encourage them to tell their parent or friend.
- Deal with each child individually. This helps to clarify their motives and lessens the chance that they are just imitating their friends.
- Don't associate belief with an action (filling out a card, raising a hand, "walking forward"). Never manipulate a child to do what you want.