



Devotional for Kids  
*in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

## Introduction

This guide is created to help parents and children walk through some of the questions and Next Steps for children who have said yes to Christ as their Savior or who are in that place of discovering Who Is Jesus?

Over the next 8 weeks we hope that you will take your children on a journey to discover why they have chosen to accept Jesus as savior and what are some Next Steps to discover about Salvation, Baptism, the Bible, Prayer, the Church and other very important topics.

You can use this information as a guide or even a weekly devotional to help your children dig a little deeper into their faith and also begin to challenge them to make it their own.

- Our prayer is that your children will have a deeper understanding of who God is and what He has done for them and who they are in Christ. We want children to take ownership of their faith and then begin to take steps to walk it out by using some of the methods that you will read about throughout the next 8 weeks.

For Kids in Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade we have created a guide for you as well. Click this link to get started: [New Believer's Guide K-2<sup>nd</sup>](#).

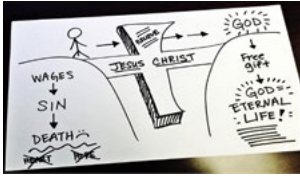


# WEEK 1

I said

Yes  
to Jesus!

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## Gospel Bridge Illustration

## What Is Salvation?

The word we use to talk about how Jesus saves us is called **Salvation**. It's just a fancy word that means we're made right with God. Being made right from what? Well, that would be sin, and sin is anything that separates us from God.

Our sin separates us from God and there's no way we can get to Him. But when there was no way, Jesus Christ made a way. How did God save us? Well, He sent Jesus! He's the coolest person we can ever know. Jesus is AMAZING! He is the Son of God! He is POWERFUL. He can HEAL SICKNESS and He even brought people BACK FROM THE DEAD! Do you know why Jesus can do all that cool stuff? Because He's God! But the most AMAZING thing that Jesus did for us is He saved us. He did this by dying on a cross to pay for our sins. See, only Jesus could pay the price for us because only Jesus lived a perfect life. He saves us from our sins to make us right with God. Because of that, we get to be in a relationship with God where He helps us to live out the plan He has for our lives and we get to live in heaven with Him FOREVER. Isn't that awesome? If you haven't put your trust in Jesus yet, you can do it right now! It's easy. Just tell Jesus you know that you have sinned, sin means we have disobeyed God, and that you are sorry. Tell Him that you put all your trust in Him, you believe that He rose from the grave, and invite Him to be Lord and Savior of your life.

If you haven't put your trust in Jesus yet, do it today! It's as easy as ABC. Click this link for the [ABC's of Salvation](#).

Talk  
about it

1. *What is the problem we all have? Who came to fix the problem?*
2. *What do we have to do to be saved from our sins?*
3. *Read 1 John 1:9. To confess means to admit we're sinners. Who do we need to tell that we're sinners? What does God do with our sins?*



## WEEK 2

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## What Is Baptism?

This week, we'll talk about Baptism so you can understand what it is, why we do it, what it represents, and then you can decide if you're ready to be baptized! When a person is baptized, they are dunked in water by a pastor or someone who talked to them about Jesus.

### STEPS TO BAPTISM

#### A Decision of Faith:

Water baptism does not save you. It has no purpose or meaning until after a person has decided to follow Jesus. But water baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to make Him Lord and Savior of your Life. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life.

Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow the Lord.

#### Obeying Jesus' Commandment:

A friend of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but also follows Jesus and does the things He did. The number one reason you should get baptized in water is because Jesus did, and He told us to.

Take time right now to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

*<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to talk Him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize Him. <sup>16</sup> After His baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."*

### **An Outward Picture:**

**Colossians 2:12** *“When you were baptized, you were buried together with Him. You were raised to life together with Him by believing in God’s power.”*

God raised Jesus from the dead. Water baptism is just an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus to save you, there was a death, a burial, and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit as you prayed the prayer.

That’s why you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. You are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you do) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying Jesus has given you a new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

**Romans 6:4** *“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”*

[Hope Kids](#)  
[Baptism Tutorial](#)

[Sign up for Baptism](#)

Talk  
about it



1. *Who told us that we should get baptized? What happens when someone is baptized?*
2. *What does baptism symbolize? Have you been baptized yet?*
3. *Read 1 Peter 3:21. How does being baptized clean us? Who makes us “clean”?*
4. *When you are baptized in water, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?*
5. *What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?*

## WEEK 3



## How Do I Pray?

Did you know that praying is how we talk to God? This week we want to help understand prayer and to be more effective in our prayer life. The easiest prayers happen when we really want something for ourselves. But as it turns out, there are lots of reasons to pray. We can pray to thank God, to express remorse, to worship, and ask for help for other people!

Prayer is important because it gives us the opportunity to talk with the Creator of the universe. When we pray, God changes our hearts to become more like His. If we practice prayer, we'll notice a change in the way we see the world; we'll notice things other people do not. And the best news is, we can pray anytime and anywhere, because God is always ready to hear from us. God wants us to talk with Him continually. If we do, we get to see Him work through the things we bring to Him. Even though that would be cool, having the ability to talk to the God of the universe is the coolest thing ever! So, let's look at an example of how to pray:

Let's think of it with the letters **P-A-L**. Do you know what that spells? Pal! Think of prayer like talking to your pal, God.

**Praise.** When you pray, start with thanking God for all that He's done in your life.

**Ask.** Spend time asking God for help. He wants to hear your prayer requests.

**Listen.** We should take time to listen to God. God always has an answer for us. It may not always be what we asked for, but He knows what's best. Our job is to listen and obey.

Learning how to pray is as simple as talking to someone you love. Like a parent, or even your best friend.

**T: TAKE the TIME:** *(Have children point to a pretend watch on their wrist.)* Find time in your day to talk to God. Pray at the same time each day. Make it a habit, like brushing your teeth.

**A: AHHHHHH.... Quiet:** *(Have children take a deep breath with you.)* Find a quiet place in your home. Turn the TV off,

your music off, and find a way to escape from your little brother. Sit under a table, go in your closet if it's big enough, make a fort, whatever!

**L: LEARN from God's Word.** (*Have children place his/her hands palm side up as if holding a Bible.*) Read one verse a day. If you're up for the challenge, read one chapter a day. Try to understand what God is saying to you. Ask a grown-up who knows Jesus for help if you need it.

**K: KEEP a Prayer Plan.** (*Have children pretend like they are writing.*) Write down how to pray. Pray that way. Write down praises, prayer requests, and verses that mean a lot to you. Keep it simple or else you won't keep doing it.

So, remember how cool it is to **TALK** to God and pray like a **PAL!**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *"Never stop praying."*



Talk  
about it



1. How often do you talk to your friends and how do you communicate? (eg. phone, in person, through a video game)
2. Why should we spend time thanking God? What are some things you're thankful for in your life?
3. What are some of your current prayer requests? How has God answered your prayers in the past?
4. Read Psalm 32:8. Who will guide us through life? Why can we trust that God knows what's best for us?

## WEEK 4



## Why Read and Study the Bible?

This week we're going to look at why we read and study the Bible and some ways to help you do both better. Maybe you look at the Bible as just an old book that only adults read. Reading the Bible isn't like reading other books. We read other books to learn or to have fun. The Bible is more like eating a meal! Reading the Bible fills our hearts with God, because we spend that time thinking about Him. When we think about Him, we'll begin to notice what He's thinking about and how we can enjoy knowing Him. That's why we need to "eat" His Word every day!

God also gave us the Bible as our instruction book for life. Think about a Lego set. In order to build the structure correctly, you have to follow all the steps in the instructions, right? Otherwise, you might end up with something different than the picture on the box. Well, that's how it works with us, too. God created us so He knows how we should be put together and how we should work. So, the Bible just tells us what to do.

The most important thing the Bible teaches us is how we can be saved. Remember, we're all broken from sin and Jesus came to die for our sins to heal us! The Bible also tells us how we are supposed to act. God created us to be obedient, kind, forgiving and to always tell the truth. And, it warns us about danger and the things we shouldn't do, like lie or steal.

**Psalm 119:103** *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth"*

**2 Timothy 3:16b** *"It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."*

## WHY DO WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

Why do we go to school? Why do we study all those books that they give us? To get a good job, to learn what we need to know. When we go to church, we also study a book. What book do we study? The Bible. Why do we study the Bible?

The Bible is even more important than our school books because it tells us about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit's love for us and all the things that they have done for us. It tells us how we are supposed to live our lives now. It tells us what kind of people God wants us to be and the kinds of things that He wants us to do.

Those are pretty important things, aren't they? That's why we study the Bible; to learn all those things.

The Bible is our instruction book for life so let's read it and obey it!

One great method to use to help you read and study the Bible is called the **SOAP** Method.

**SOAP** stands for **Scripture, Observation, Application** and **Prayer** and involves four simple steps:

**Scripture** – Read a short Bible passage out loud and/or write it out.

**Observation** – What do you notice about the verses? What do you think the main message is? What verses, words or ideas jump out to you?

**Application** – Ask God how He wants you to apply the verse to your own life.

**Prayer** – Pray for yourself and/or for others.

Talk  
about it



1. *Have you (or maybe a parent) ever tried to cook something without using a recipe? How did it turn out?*
2. *What do we have to do to be saved? What does the Bible say about Jesus?*
3. *What are some other things the Bible tells us we should and shouldn't do?*
4. *What are your favorite stories from the Bible?*
5. *Read Psalm 119:103-105. How do these verses describe God's word? How does the Bible help us to live for God?*



## WEEK 5

I said

Yes

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## What Is Communion?

Communion is a time we pause and remember what Jesus has done for us. As a follower of Jesus, the Bible teaches us that anyone who has surrendered their life to Jesus and has an understanding of what it means can do communion as a remembrance of what Jesus has done! It is important to note that the elements are not what make the sacrament and moment holy, but what makes it holy is that we are honoring and remembering Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** *“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

Communion simply represents what Jesus did for us. So, at church, we use bread or crackers to remind us that His body was broken for us, and we drink juice to remember that His blood paid for our sins. We do this to remember His sacrifice for us!

If you would like to go a bit deeper, check out this video for more about what communion is all about! [WHAT IS COMMUNION.](#)

[Communion at Home](#)

[First Communion Registration](#)

Talk about it



1. Share some of your favorite family traditions. Do your friends think some of them are weird?
2. What do people do when they take communion? What does each item represent?
3. Why does Jesus want us to take communion?
4. Can anyone take communion? Yes, anyone who has given their heart and life to Jesus and wants to remember what Jesus did for them at the cross. (1 Cor 11:23-26)
5. Read John 3:16-17. Why did Jesus come? What does it mean that we can have eternal life?

## WEEK 6

I said

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## The Fruit of The Spirit

This week, we're going to learn about the fruits of the Spirit. When we think about fruit, we think about watermelon, apples and bananas. But we're going to talk about different fruits, the fruit God wants to grow in our lives. You've probably heard of them before - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the fruits that should be displayed in a follower of Jesus. And guess what? When we put our trust in Jesus, He gives us the Holy Spirit who comes and lives in our hearts and helps us to produce these good fruits in our lives.

Here's a helpful way to think about it:

Think about an apple tree. The trunk is in the ground and brings the food and water to the branches. The branches then grow the apples that we later pick and eat! The Holy Spirit is like the trunk. He lives in our hearts, feeding us with God's love and Truth. We are the branches. As we're filled with God's love and truth, we'll act and talk in ways that are honoring to God- these are the fruits! Each fruit represents a different kind of good feeling or characteristic that comes from God. It would be a lot easier if there was just one fruit to practice but having nine is a lot more work. The positive side is that putting them all together makes life a lot sweeter, just like a fruit salad. God lists these characteristics as both a challenge to live them out and a reminder that Christians should practice these qualities and make them daily habits.

If you go to the store and pick up an apple, you expect it to look, taste, and smell a certain way. The life of a Christian is like the apple. There are certain expectations. Instead of colorful, crunchy, and sweet, the qualities of a Christ-follower are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And, when people see the fruits in our lives, they'll know we belong to Jesus!

Watch this Video: [The Fruit of the Spirit](#)

**Galatians 5:22-23** *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

Talk  
about it



1. If you could grow any type of food in your yard, what would you grow?
2. Name the fruits of the Spirit. Which one do you need to grow more in your life?
3. Who helps us to grow the fruits in our hearts? How do The Fruits help us in life?
4. Read Matthew 7:16-20. What is Jesus saying about fruit and actions in this passage?

## WEEK 7

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## Armor of God

This week, we're going to learn about a special uniform we get to wear as Christians. It's not like a football uniform and it doesn't come with a police badge. It's really not clothes at all. We're talking about God's armor. The Bible says that when we trust in Jesus, we have the strength to fight against sinful things which are things that don't honor God. This special armor helps us to do that.

### WHY IS ARMOR NEEDED?

A military soldier preparing for battle needs equipment like a helmet, shield, and sword in literal terms. The soldier could not possibly go into war without the correct attire. They would be an easy target. A soldier has physical pieces of protective equipment that they wear. They are real things you can see and feel.

A Christian needs protection too. But instead of actual real armor or equipment to put on the body, you must put on the spiritual armor of God. Your life, your feelings, and your thoughts must be protected from the dangers that come from Satan.

**Ephesians 6:11** gives these reminders, *"Let the Lord make you strong...remain strong against the devil's evil plans."*

These pieces of armor are attributes that God gives you to protect your mind and heart. So, what exactly do you need to stay protected? There are six pieces listed in Ephesians chapter 6 that give us a clear picture of what it looks like to put on the whole armor of God. **The Belt of Truth, The Breastplate of Righteousness, The Gospel Shoes of Peace, The Shield of Faith, The Helmet of Salvation, and The Sword of the Spirit.**

Watch this video: [Armor of God](#)

So, remember your special uniform and be sure to put it on every day.

**Ephesians 6:10** *“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”*

Talk  
about it

1. How does the shield of faith help us in life?
2. What book is our sword?
3. What piece of the armor do you feel like you need the most?
4. Read Philippians 1:27. What do you think it means to be a citizen of heaven? How can God’s armor help us with that?



## WEEK 8

I said

Yes

to Jesus!

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## Why Church?

This week, we're talking about why going to church is important. Have you ever wondered why you go to church? It's the weekend. You're tired. You have school the next day. Why would you want to drag yourself out of bed and go to church on a Sunday morning? What if you find your church boring or you don't get along with the kids in your class? What's the point of going to church anyway?

The Bible tells us that all believers need to attend church so that we can worship God, be taught from His Word, and have relationships with other believers. These are all important parts of growing closer to God and learning to live your life for Him. It gives you a structure that can help keep you focused on serving Him and serving others.

Church is where you learn about Jesus. Unless you go to a Christian school, you probably won't hear your teachers talk about Jesus in your school. So, we need to go to church to hear about Jesus and all He's done for us. The Church also allows us to use the gifts God has given us to help others. So, if you're a great singer, you can help with the worship time at church. If you're super friendly, you can help to greet the new kids who come to your class. Going to church is important!

Going to church allows us to connect to other Christian kids. Our Christian friends help us to honor God and encourage us to do things like read our Bibles and pray.

**“Church is not a place, it's a people.”**

Remember, you are a “new creation” in Christ. Attending church is absolutely vital to developing your faith and maturity as a believer. Church attendance is not going to guarantee you eternal life, but it will help you grow spiritually as a Christian. It’s important to find a church that teaches from the Bible—first and foremost. Secondly, pray for your church to provide opportunities to make friends with other believers. It may be uncomfortable or awkward at first, but give it a try. Just because it isn’t “required,” that doesn’t mean it can’t be good for you.

Watch this Video: [What is The Church?](#)

**Hebrews 10:24** *“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”*

Talk  
about it

1. What’s your favorite thing to do at church? Why?
2. Why is it important to connect to Jesus?
3. How can your Christian friends help you in life?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-2. How can you be loving toward your friends at church? How can you serve your teachers at church? How should you treat the new kids that come into your class?

