



Milestone 5: Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ (Age 8)

Prepare yourself to biblically lead your child through the process of salvation.

One of the most significant days in your child's life will be the day they choose to give their life to Christ. As a parent, you will want to be prepared to lead your child through that decision, but only when they are ready. Your child's decision to follow Christ and put Him on in baptism will come in their own time. We give you this challenge at this point in time, because this is the age, typically, when children begin to question and consider their own salvation and personal relationship with Christ. Your child may choose to make this decision at any time in their formative years, which is totally okay. This milestone is intended to prepare you, as parents, to be ready when your child is ready. This is a guide to help you lead them through this significant decision.

First, be actively praying about your child's personal faith. Be praying for them to, by faith, choose to follow Jesus on their own. Everything in their life, up to this point, has been laying a foundation for them to build their own faith and commitment to God. As children of God, they will want to obey the gospel by becoming His child. They will want to express their love for Him in baptism. They will want to receive Jesus Christ as Lord, forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Be prayerful. Be ready. Be excited!

Second, discern your child's readiness. It is important that you instruct them properly, as they are making this mature decision. Your child may be intellectually ready, but not spiritually. Your child will likely know a lot of the answers to the questions about the salvation process. Use your discernment here. However, be cautious not to discourage them in their desire to obey the gospel. Be excited. Be glad. It's okay to encourage them to wait and to continue serving and growing in God. Keep their faith and decision open-ended. Give them opportunity to show you their maturity, as well as their urgency.

Here are some signs that your child may be ready to begin this process: 1) They are asking questions about being saved and being baptized, 2) They are expressing a personal conviction of sin and lost relationship with God, 3) They are confessing their sins, and 4) They are insistent on the urgency of being baptized.

Third, ask questions. If you feel your child is acting in a mature way, ask them some questions to gauge their level of understanding. Questions like, “What is sin?” and “How does your sin affect your relationship with God?” How they respond can help you sense when your child is ready to understand two important concepts.

1. Jesus is the Son of God - 100% God and Man.
2. Jesus is Lord - Salvation is found in no one else. Submit to Him as Lord of your life.

Fourth, lead your child to salvation through baptism. Review with your child what the scriptures say about what you must do and what the Lord does to save you.

1. Hear and Believe - John 5:24, Romans 10:17, John 8:24, Acts 16:31
2. Repent - Acts 17:30-31, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, Luke 13:1-5, Acts 16:22-23
3. Confess “Jesus is Lord” - Romans 10:8-10, Matthew 10:32-33
4. Obey the Gospel through Baptism - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Romans 6:1-4
1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Acts 22:16, Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:18-21
Galatians 3:26-27, Acts 2:41,47
5. Remain Faithful - Revelation 2:10, Matthew 22:36-40, John 14:15
Matthew 25:31-46

If you would like more assistance in your preparation and instruction for leading your child through this process, please visit with any of our ministers and elders. We would love to help in any way.

Next Steps in Your Faith @ Home Journey...

- Pray daily for and with your child.
- Bless your child daily.
- Consistently spend time in God’s Word.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Be prepared to lead your child to salvation, through baptism, when you discern that your child is ready.

Recommended Readings...

A Baptism Worth Talking About (by Jim McGuiggan)
Preparing for Baptism (by Allan J. McNicol)