

PARENT CUE GUIDE

START HERE.

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” John 3:16, NIRV

JUST FOR PARENTS

This is an exciting time in your child's life. They're starting to ask questions about their faith. They're wondering about God and his love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—questions that you may struggle with yourself or that may not have a simple answer. But that's ok. This is a starting point for you and your kids to begin a lifelong conversation about faith. That's why we want you to “Start Here” with John 3:16. It lays the foundation for God's love for us, which caused him to send Jesus to be our Savior.

Over the next few pages, we'll break the verse down, phrase by phrase, with some questions to help you start a conversation with your kids.

Here are some quick things to keep in mind:

1. In the New Testament, it was not uncommon for an entire household to be saved on the same day.
2. If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, or you are not sure if you have, now is the perfect time. Why not settle the question for yourself, as well as for your child.
3. **Remember:**
 - It's not about being good enough.
 - We are not saved by praying a prayer.
 - We are saved by putting our faith in Jesus as our Savior.
 - Prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Jesus for all he has done on our behalf.

So, what are you waiting for? **START HERE.**

GOD LOVED

God loved you before you were even born. He created you in his image. And he loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from him, something that keeps us from being with him forever. It's called sin. It's the stuff we do wrong. And we know that bad choices deserve a punishment. Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us and it separates us from him. And on our own, we can't do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. But because God loves us, he made a way for all of us to live with him forever.

Ask Your Child:

1. **Who does God love?**
2. **What is sin?**
3. **Have you ever sinned? When?**
4. **What is the problem with sin?**

GOD GAVE

God gave the most important, valuable, and perfect thing he had for us. He knew that our sin would keep us from living with him forever. We're apart from God and would stay that way, but because God loved us, he gave his son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for us to be in God's story. And even though Jesus never made a bad choice, he gave up his life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again.

Ask Your Child:

1. **What did God give us?**
2. **Why did God give this gift?**
3. **What did Jesus do for us?**

WE BELIEVE

When you receive a gift what do you do? You open it. God said you could open his gift by believing. Believing simply means to trust, and it's something you do. It's a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight on it. You trust that it will hold you up. There is something just as simple that you and I can do to show God that we believe - we can tell him! We can talk to God by praying. We can thank him for loving us, for giving us Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life to forgive all of our bad choices. That's what it looks like to believe.

Ask Your Child:

1. **What does it mean to believe in something?**
2. **What do you believe about Jesus?**
3. **How can you show God what you believe?**

WE RECEIVE

When you choose to believe you get something; a gift! And it's the best gift of all - eternal life. When you believe in Jesus and trust him to save you, he becomes your Friend Forever! You begin a new relationship with God that starts right away and never ends. Someday we will still die, but we get to spend forever and ever with God in a place called Heaven. Heaven will be a party with all of the best things and none of the sad things. It will be perfect!

Ask Your Child:

1. **When you believe in Jesus, what gift do you receive?**
2. **What does it mean to receive eternal life?**
3. **What makes you most excited about Jesus being your Friend Forever?**

START HERE.

PRAYER

We like to use **ABC** language to explain God's plan for us to have a relationship with him:

- **ADMIT**
you have made bad choices. (Romans 3:23 & Romans 6:23)
- **BELIEVE**
Jesus died to take the punishment for your sin and came back to life. (Romans 5:8)
- **COMMIT**
to Jesus being your Friend Forever and the leader of your life. (Romans 10:9 & John 1:12)

You can use the following prayer with your child as you lead them to trust Jesus:

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER,

I know I make bad choices, called sin. I know my sin should separate me from you forever. But instead you loved me and gave me Jesus. I believe and trust that your son Jesus, died for my sin and came back to life. Thank you for loving me and for giving me the gift of eternal life so I could live with you now and in heaven someday. Be my Friend Forever!

In Jesus' name, amen.

WHAT NOW?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in him as the one who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that **baptism** is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, "Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!"

If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.