

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS

The word *gospel* means “good news.” THE Gospel is THE Good News about what Jesus has done. It is the message about Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation. He has rescued us and made a way for us to be with God in Heaven forever!

THE GOSPEL TRUTH



GOD RULES

The Bible tells us that God created everything, including you and me. He is in charge of everything! (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17)



WE SINNED

Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



GOD PROVIDED

God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. God has comforted us and provided away to remove the separation between us and Him. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)



JESUS GIVES

The penalty for our sin is death. Jesus lived a perfect life here on earth, so He owes nothing. Jesus *chose* to die on the cross to pay *our* debt. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we are welcomed into God’s family forever. His death pays for our sin, and his resurrection means it’s paid in full. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)



WE RESPOND

When we know and believe all these amazing things, we want to do something! First, we feel sorry and apologize to God for our sins. Then we tell him thank you, and show our gratitude when we love, follow, and obey Jesus. And with good news like this, we’re eager to tell others about Him! (John 14:16; Romans 10:9-10, 13)

HELPFUL TIPS FOR GOSPEL DISCUSSION

START SMALL! Before jumping into the Gospel, begin with questions like, “How are you liking VBS so far?” or “What has been your favorite part about VBS today?”

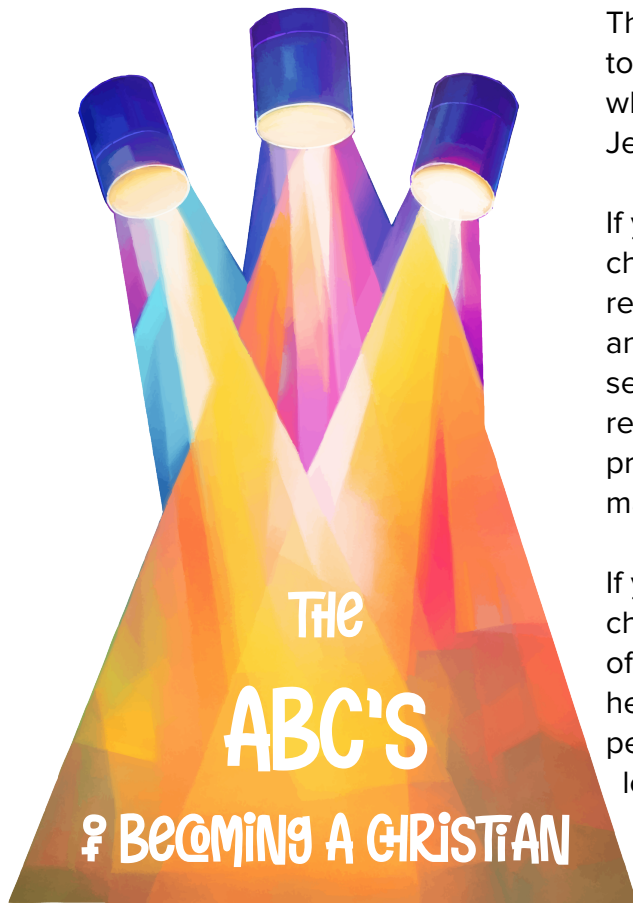
ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS Remind kids that this is a conversation, not a pass/fail test.

KEEP IT SIMPLE! Don’t complicate the Gospel. Avoid large, theological words and don’t assume a child has any prior knowledge or understanding of the gospel.

REPETITION Use and review *The Gospel Truth* and the *ABC’s of Becoming a Christian* with your kids throughout the week.

USE SCRIPTURE Scripture helps kids recognize that what you are saying is not your words ideas, but God’s words.

CLOSE IN PRAYER Ask God for wisdom and for His Holy Spirit to move and convict.



The *ABC's of Becoming a Christian* is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus with our whole hearts.

If you sense that the Holy Spirit is working in a child's heart in such a way that the child is ready to follow Him, spend some time talking and praying with him or her individually. If you sense that a child is not ready to pray and respond in faith and repentance, continue to prayerfully teach him or her about Christ and maybe revisit their questions again later.

If you feel uncomfortable about talking with a child about his or her questions or profession of faith, pray with the child that God would help him or her to understand, and then personally connect the child with a pastor or leader who will talk with them more. Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent/s or caregiver/s.

A

ADMIT to God that you are a sinner. Ever since Adam and Eve chose to sin by disobeying God, all people have chosen to sin and disobey. (Romans 3:23) Tell God that you messed up and you are sorry for turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent—turn away from your sin! (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) Repent doesn't just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin to Jesus, not trusting even in your own good works. We must trust only in Jesus to save us.

B

BELIEVE that Jesus is God's Son and receive God's gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you, and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by going to church or reading your Bible. Your faith or trust must be only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

C

CONFESS your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. If Jesus is your Lord, it means that you are trusting Him to be in charge. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a **NEW LIFE** and look forward to being with God forever in eternity! (Romans 10:9-10, 13)



HELPING KIDS LEARN TO USE THEIR BIBLES

Finding the Memory Verse with kindergartners & 1st graders

Guide children to open the Bibles to where you have bookmarked the memory verse. (You may want to add a post-it note with an arrow that points precisely to the verse you're reading. Point to the book title at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then guide children to find the large number(s) on the pages. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look for the little numbers at the start of sentences; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together. Show them how to put the bookmark back in place so they can find the verse again easily.

Finding the Memory Verse with 2nd and 3rd graders

Guide these kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the Table of Contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the book you'll be using in the list under "Old Testament" or "New Testament." When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and then help children find the page. Next explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers and help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the verse they'll be learning. Provide a bookmark and encourage them put it in place so they can find the verse again easily.

Finding the Memory Verse 4th graders

Ask kids to tell you whether they book you'll be reading in is the Old Testament or the New Testament. Direct kids toward the front, middle, or back of the Bible as needed. When they find it, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers and give them a minute to find the right chapter. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers and allow time to find the verse. Provide a bookmark and encourage them put it in place so they can find the verse again easily.

Finding the Lesson Passage Each Day

On Day 1, for all ages, it will be helpful to have a bookmark in several Bibles before VBS begins. This will be helpful for the Younger Crews every day. For the Older Crews, use the above methods for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders.