

Heartshaping: Leading Kids to Jesus

Elementary

One of the greatest joys of teaching is the opportunity to participate with children as they reach salvation decisions. It is likely that teachers who interact with the same small group of children will have the greatest opportunity to build relationships that will lead to salvation conversations because they will be the ones who will spend the most relational time with the kids. However, everyone involved in leading and helping needs to be ready to talk to children individually as the opportunity presents itself.



The following suggestions will help you discuss salvation with children.

- Use concrete terms. Most elementary children do not think abstractly. Preteens are just beginning to think symbolically. Use vocabulary that is accurate, comfortable, and appropriate.
- Talk and listen. Talking, questioning, listening, thinking, and praying together will enable you to determine a young person's readiness and desire to take this important step.
- Know your children. Invest time in developing the kind of teacher-child relationships that communicate unconditional love and acceptance. Become acquainted with families.
- Share with parents. The best person to determine if a child is ready to make a decision is the Christian parent. Parents know their children better than anyone else, so communicate with the parents and support them in any way you can.
- Seek direction from the Holy Spirit. He knows the shape of every child's heart. Continually pray that the Spirit will give you sensitivity to the needs of each child.
- Select Bible verses to share with the young person who is ready for a conversation about salvation. Highlight them in your Bible. Encourage the children read the verses from his or her Bible. Consider these verses: John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31-33; Romans 10:9, 13; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36-38; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Revelation 2:10; Matthew 24:13.
- Talk to kids individually. Avoid situations in which peer pressure can influence this vital decision.

Experience the rewards of helping shape children's hearts with God's Word!



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