

GOING FURTHER

RESOURCES

*For a study on baptism, please contact Seth McDowell,
Amber Norris or Ben Hansen.*

GOING FURTHER

SHAWNEE TRAIL SUPPORT

Children and Student Ministries

Shawnee Trail has a range of ministries for our kids. Contact Amber Norris, our children's minister, at amber@shawneetrail.org/214-364-6875 or Ben Hansen, our youth minister, at ben@shawneetrail.org/601-278-0463.

Family Time and Holiday Resources

Resources are available at the Faith@Home Center or shawneetrail.org/members/faith@home.

For more
resources, visit our
Faith@Home
Center
----- or -----
shawneetrail.org

Introducing Your CHILD TO CHRIST

SHAWNEE TRAIL
CHURCH OF CHRIST


P O I N T E R

INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST

One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. As you care for your child's daily needs and work to prepare him or her for success in life, there's nothing more important than caring for their spiritual needs and helping them prepare for eternity. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood.

That's understandable, but God has given you the most important and most influential role when it comes to nurturing your child's faith. All it takes is a little training for you to feel more comfortable about the when and how of introducing them to Christ.

STEP ONE

Lay a Foundation

A child's decision to follow Jesus is rarely a one-stop process. Your son or daughter grows in their understanding of God by developing a foundation; hearing the stories of the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth. Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home; watching your example, feeling your love, learning right from wrong. These two ways of learning work best when they are connected in your home and integrated into your family life. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 that says, *"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* Don't worry if your child hasn't grown up in church because your family is new to the faith. It is never too late to start.

STEP TWO

Discern Readiness

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push him or her too fast, making sure they are ready in both heart and head and can truly understand the gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually mature enough to make a commitment.

STEP THREE

Ask Questions

When you feel they are ready, ask a few questions to help gauge your child's level of understanding. Read Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."* Then ask questions like, *"What is sin?"* *"How does your sin affect your relationship to God?"* and *"How can you be right with God?"* How they respond can help you sense whether your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- **Jesus as Savior:** The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
- **Jesus as Lord:** The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life. Are you ready to make him Lord of your life by putting him on baptism?

STEP FOUR

Guide Your Child to Baptism for Salvation

Acts 2:38 tells us, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is and what it leads to, as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then he or she is ready for baptism.

STEP FIVE

Prepare Them for Baptism

Once your child has understood and decided to accept God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, it is time to guide them toward following Christ in baptism. Call one of our ministers the day your child is ready and we will call the congregation together or just their small group or family and meet you at the church building.