



Parent Resource

Dive In Parent Resource

After attending Dive In you may not be sure if your child understands what it means to follow Jesus. This resource was designed to help you determine if your child is ready and provide some next steps in the event they are not. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting to walk through some of the information on the following pages.

Is my child ready?

Some signs that a child does understand should include:

1. They understand the meaning of sin (*Romans 3:23*)
2. They realize everyone has sinned against God, including themselves (*1 John 1:8*)
3. They realize that sin separates us from God (*Isaiah 59:2*)
4. They understand and believe that Jesus died to pay the price for our sin (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*)
5. They recognize that it is a gift from God, not something we earn, but it is something we must accept. (*Romans 6:23*)

A child may decide they want to follow Jesus for many reasons, so it's helpful to never assume anything. Some reasons they may be interested could include:

- To get attention
- Because friends have made that decision
- Out of curiosity
- Because of unanswered questions
- Out of fear
- From a genuine desire to follow Jesus

Regardless of the reason, it's important to **affirm their desire**. Take ample time with your child and do not feel the need to rush. Asking questions is a great way to determine their understanding. Avoid yes or no questions, and instead, ask questions that call for open-ended responses, such as:

- What is sin?
- Why does our sin separate us from God?
- Who is Jesus?
- What did Jesus do for us, and why?

If they are ready

If your child understands Jesus' story and it makes sense, share with them how we accept God's gift by taking the steps we see in the Bible. Everything we know about God and Jesus comes from the Bible, so we always want to turn there as our guide. Here are the steps involved with following Jesus:

- **BELIEVE** – We have to believe in God, in Jesus, and what Jesus did for us.
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – *John 3:16*
- **CONFESS** – We have to confess out loud, publicly, what we believe.
“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” – *Romans 10:9*
- **REPENT** – Repent simply means “to turn” or “change one’s mind”. We need to turn away from our old way of living, and turn toward Jesus and follow him for the rest of our life.
“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” – *Acts 3:19*
- **BE BAPTIZED** – Jesus was baptized, and commanded all of his followers to be baptized.
“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” – *Matthew 28:19*
- **HOLY SPIRIT** – The Holy Spirit is God’s Spirit who lives in us once we decide to follow Jesus.
“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” – *Acts 2:38*

After talking with your child, please contact us to set up a time to talk about baptism for your child.

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If they are not ready

If your child is not ready, that is okay. There are some things you can do while they continue to grow, learn, and understand Jesus' story. Here are some ideas:

- Work through the Dive In Homework Questions
- Read the Bible with them, specifically verses that talk about who Jesus was, what he did for us and how we can follow him.
 - Romans 3:23-24 (*We have all sinned*)
 - Romans 6:23 (*Sin leads to death, and separation from God*)
 - Matthew 16:15-16 (*Jesus is God's Son*)
 - John 3:16, Romans 5:8 (*God loves us and sent Jesus to save us*)
 - Romans 10:9-10 (*We have to believe and confess our belief publicly*)
 - Acts 3:19, Acts 2:38 (*We need to repent and be baptized*)
 - Matthew 28:18-20 (*Jesus commanded us to lead others to follow him*)
 - Acts 16:24-34 (*Story of jailer and his family deciding to follow Jesus*)
- After reading some of the stories, have your child write down their understanding of what happened and what it means.
- Continue bringing your child to Discovery Island each Sunday, during the same service so they connect with the same Small Group Leader and kids each week. Talk with your child's Small Group Leader so they are aware of where your child is in their understanding of Jesus' story. That open dialogue will allow you and their Small Group Leader to help your child learn and understand what it means to follow Jesus.

Questions?

If you have any questions or would like some help walking through this with your child, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would love to set up a time to meet together with you and your child.

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