



How to Lead a Child To Christ

KOLBY &
MARY BETH KING

Published by 330ministries
www.ThreeThirtyMinistries.org

The purpose of this book is to equip you to share the Gospel in ways that a child can understand. And, if a 7 year old can understand what you are saying, so can an 87-year old. In other words, learning to share the Gospel for a child is simply learning to share the Gospel in a way that all ages can understand.

There is no greater honor for parents than to be able to lead their own kids to Christ. This book is dedicated to all parents who long for the salvation of their children.

How to Lead a Child To Christ

by
Kolby & Mary Beth King

Permissions

This eBook is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This eBook may not be re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each recipient. If you are reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use or given as a gift from the author, then please return to Smashwords.com and purchase your own copy. Thank you for respecting the work of this author.

Scripture verses used in this book are cited from the World English Version, a public domain version of the Bible. Learn more at <http://www.worldenglishbible.org>

Copyright 2012 by Kolby King

Check out more books by Kolby and Mary Beth King at Smashwords.com or on www.330resources.org/books.

Discover great resources for pastors, families, children's ministry and youth ministry at:
www.330resources.org.

[Table of Contents](#)

[Introduction](#)

How to Lead a Child to Christ

[Chapter 1—The Plan of Salvation Drawing](#)

[Chapter 2—Asking for a Response](#)

[Chapter 3—Important Things to Know](#)

[Chapter 4—The Stage of Accountability](#)

[Chapter 5—Sharing the Greatest Story of Your Life](#)

[Chapter 6—Kids Leading Kids to Christ](#)

Appendix

[About the Authors](#)

This booklet is a portion of a book called *20 Seconds of Courage*.

Purchase the entire book at www.330resources.org/books.



Download the App
Available for Apple and Android Devices

Download the free app that goes with the plan of salvation in this book at
www.330resources.org/heaven-app.

In the app you will also get access to audio training for each part of the plan of salvation.

Introduction

A few years ago I taught a group of students the plan of salvation that this book contains. Afterwards a high school junior came up to me and said, “For years I have been told that I needed to witness to others but until today nobody every told me how.”

The purpose of this Learner’s Guide is to do just that—to show you how to share in the simplest way possible. There are hundreds of evangelism tools and techniques but sharing Jesus is not about tools and techniques. It’s not about programs and books. Sharing Jesus is about a heart overflowing with the love of Christ. It’s about a person who has been with Jesus who can’t help but to “speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). If you are walking with the Lord and know how you were saved, you are already ready to lead a person to Christ. You already know what you need to know and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, you can be a powerful witness.

But many believers shy away from stepping out. They don’t feel ready. They aren’t confident. What if they don’t have all the answers? What if the person isn’t interested? What if... That’s where this book can help.

We have purposely kept the teaching in this Learner’s Guide easy and simple—so simple that it can even be taught to children (which it has!). Sharing the Gospel is not as complicated as we sometimes make it. So try not to make it harder than it is. Simply *walk with God*. Let Him fill up your heart. Then *be willing* to share out of the overflow of your heart anytime, anywhere, and use the tips and methods in this book to help you feel more comfortable, prepared, and confident in reaching and teaching people of all ages with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Before You Begin

The following pages contain several tools that can help you lead not only a child but a person of any age to Christ. These are methods to assist you but always remember that:

Sharing Jesus is not about methods—*It's a lifestyle.*

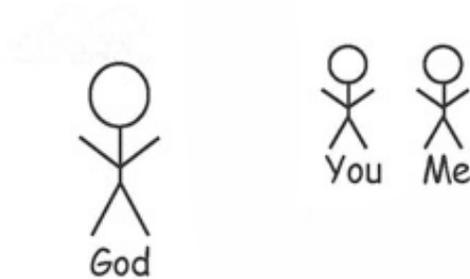
Also, be aware that:

- Not everyone with whom you will share Jesus to will come to Christ. Some people will say no to the Lord; others won't even want to listen; a child might not yet be ready. Many times you will plant a seed, someone else will water, but God will cause the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). Speak boldly; speak often; and trust the Lord with results.
- Don't worry about using the "wrong words" or "What if I mess up?" You don't have to be a Bible scholar with twelve degrees on your wall to tell someone about Christ. Your only prerequisite is a living, daily relationship with Jesus. If you're saved and you're walking with the Lord, then you're ready to tell the world about the wonders of God. Entrust yourself to Christ and He will give you the words to say.
- After speaking with someone about accepting the Lord, never second-guess what you said or did. Don't give room to thoughts such as, "What if I would have been more clear..." or "What if I would have said this instead..." or "What if it's my fault he didn't want Jesus." Simply trust that God did in that moment what He wanted to do. In other words, *enjoy* your relationship with God and enjoy sharing that relationship with others without the burden and self-condemnation of a world of "what ifs."

Chapter 1

The following is a simple way to share the Gospel for any age.

The Salvation Drawing - Part 1 God's Love



Draw three stick figures: "God" on the left-hand side and "You" and "Me" on the right-hand side.

EXPLAIN that God loves the person you are talking to and that He wants a personal relationship with them. Instead of writing "You" and "Me" under the figures, write your name and the name of the person to whom you are talking. This will not only help you to remember their name but remind you to keep using their name often as you talk with them.

Example of what to say:

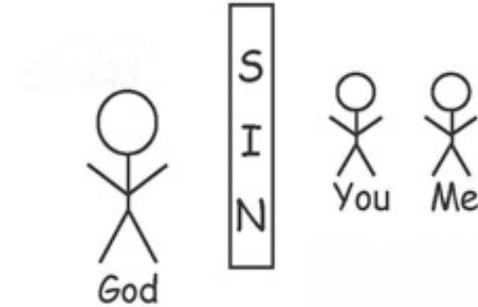
God loves you and He created you to have a relationship with Him. Even before you were born He loved you and had great plans for your life.

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Talking With Children

You can use this method to share the Gospel on a child's level. Remember, be brief and to the point. A seven year old under the conviction of the Holy Spirit is still a seven year old and will still have the attention span of a seven year old. Be careful not to mistake immaturity for lack of interest or conviction.

The Salvation Drawing - Part 2 Our Problem



Add a rectangular wall in the drawing between us and God. Label this block "Sin" to show how sin separates us from God.

EXPLAIN that we have a problem. Our problem is sin and sin is anything we do that is wrong. Our sins separate us from God.

Example of what to say:

But we have a problem called sin and sin is anything we do that is wrong.

Have you ever done something wrong?

Yes, we all have.

The Bible says, "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

We've all done wrong things and you can picture our sin like a great canyon or huge wall that separates us from God.

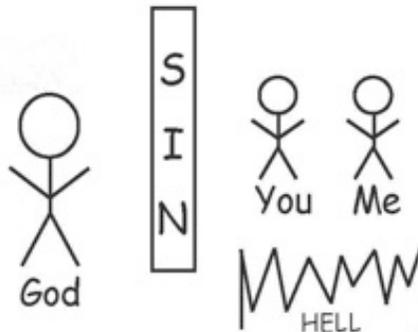
God is perfect. He's on this side. Are we perfect? No, because we've all done wrong things. And our sins, the wrong things we do, separate us from God.

Talking With Children

Be careful not to ask, "Have you ever sinned?" Many un-churched children misunderstand or are unfamiliar with the term "sin." Ask, "Have you ever done anything wrong?" This is an easier question to answer.

If a child says that he has never done anything wrong, it's possible that he hasn't reached the "Stage of Accountability." See chapter 4 for information on this subject.

The Salvation Drawing - Part 3 The Punishment for Sin



Add an image of flames to the drawing beneath "You" and "Me". Label this image "Hell."

EXPLAIN that there is a punishment for the wrong things we do. This punishment is eternal separation from God in a place called “hell.” God didn’t create hell for us, but for the devil and the other angels that rebelled against Him (Matt. 25:41). But when we sinned and rebelled against God, this became our just punishment too.

Example of what to say:

Sin has a punishment. It’s a place called hell, but God doesn’t want you to go there. The Bible says that God created hell as the punishment for the devil and the other angels that rebelled against Him, but when we did wrong things, this became our punishment too.

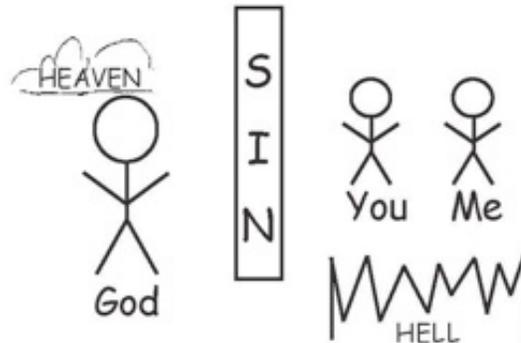
And hell isn’t just the punishment for really bad things—One sin, no matter how small, even the littlest of lies, is enough to keep a person out of heaven.

The Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Talking With Children

When speaking with a child, do not omit mentioning hell because this is a part of the Gospel. However, do not focus on it either. Your aim is not to scare the child but to inform them that there is a punishment for sin and a gift that is eternal life. Also, you may need to distinguish with some children that “hell” is a “bad” word if you use it in a bad way, but it’s also a place but not a place that God wants you to go.

The Salvation Drawing - Part 4 The Gift of God



Add to the drawing an image of a cloud above "God." Label this image "Heaven."

EXPLAIN that just because God wants us to go to Heaven, doesn't mean that we automatically will.

Example of what to say:

But there's more...

ASK: Where does God want us to go? (To Heaven.)

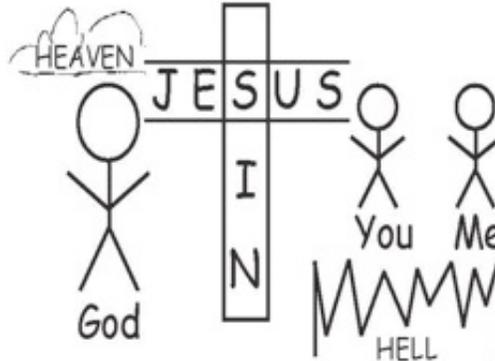
God has a gift for you: Being able to know Him and to go to Heaven when you die. God wants everyone to go to Heaven, but just because He wants us to go to Heaven, doesn't mean that we automatically will.

We have to make a choice, but this is what God did...

Did You Know...

God's gift of "eternal life" is not just going to Heaven. In John 17:3 Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ." Eternal life is being in relationship with God and it doesn't begin when a person dies. Eternal life begins the moment a person is saved.

The Salvation Drawing - Part 5 One Way



Add a bridge to the drawing across "Sin." This will also reveal the image of a cross. Using the "S" in "Sin," label this bridge "Jesus."

EXPLAIN that Jesus was God and came to earth as a man. He lived a perfect life, and when He died, God punished Him for all the wrong things you and I would ever do. This is how much God loves you and this is the reason Jesus came, to make a way for you to go to heaven. (Refer to the sin block.) If this is the Grand Canyon of sin, Jesus built a bridge across it by dying and paying the price for your sins, but Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later, God raised Him from the dead and He's alive today. That's why He's the only way to go to heaven.

Example of what to say:

God sent Jesus. Jesus is God's only Son who and came to earth as a man. He lived a perfect life, and when He died on the cross, God punished Him for all the wrong things you and I would ever do.

This is how much God loves you and this is the reason Jesus came—to make a way for you to go to heaven. If sin separates us from God, Jesus built a bridge across it by dying and paying the price for your sins.

But Jesus didn't stay dead. Three days later God raised Him from the dead and He's alive today. That's why He's the only way to go to heaven.

The Bible says, "But God showed his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The Bible also says, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but by me'" (John 14:6).

At this point the drawing part is finished. The drawing shows a person what God did to make a way for us to go to Heaven. Now it's time to explain how someone can accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

The Salvation Drawing - Part 6

How a Person is Saved

Add nothing to the drawing.

Jesus has already paid the price for your sins, but for you to give your life to Him, you have to:

A - Admit that you have sinned and be willing to turn from your sin.

B - Believe that Jesus is God's Son who died and was raised from the dead. This isn't just believing with your head, but trusting with your heart.

C - Call on the Lord, confess your sins, and commit your life to Him. This is the willingness to turn from your sins and to turn to Christ as your Savior.

The Bible says, "That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

The Bible also says, "For, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

EXPLAIN that for a person to receive Christ, they must come to God on His terms and His terms are everything or nothing. To give your life to Jesus means that you are willing to surrender everything you are and everything that you have to Him. It's not enough to just turn from your sins. Many people turn over a "new leaf," but this is an act of turning from your sins and turning to Christ as the Lord and Boss of your life.

Talking Tip

The A-B-C outline is just a guide. You don't actually have to say, "A...Admit that you have sinned..." This is just a guide for you to follow in your mind. If you were to actually say, "Giving your life to Christ is like A-B-C," just picture the connection this makes in a lost person's head. The only A-B-Cs they know is the alphabet!

Chapter 2

Asking for a Response

ASK: Does all this make sense to you?

When you ask, “Does all this make sense to you?” don’t be afraid of being asked questions to which you don’t know the answers. It’s okay not to have all the answers. If the person you are speaking with asks you something that you don’t know, just say, “I don’t know about that but what I do know is...” and then come right back to what you know about what it means to give your life to Christ.

The purpose of this question is to give them clarification on how to know Jesus, not to “chase rabbits.” For example, if you are talking to a child who at this point says, “Do animals go to Heaven?” just bring the conversation back to what matters. “Why don’t we talk about that later, but right now let’s talk about how you can know that you’re going to Heaven.” Also, never interpret random questions from children to mean that they aren’t interested about what you’re saying. Remember that kids think differently, so be very careful not to mistake immaturity for the lack of God drawing them to Himself.

ASK: Would you like to give your life to Christ?

Some people, when learning how to share Jesus, choke when it comes to the question, “Would you like to give your life to Christ?” If you feel anxious about asking this, just take a deep breath, swallow, trust God and boldly spit it out.

If the person says, “Yes”, then explain how they can pray and ask Jesus into their lives.

(If they say, “No,” see chapter 3.)

Example of what to say:

You can give your life to Jesus right now by praying and asking Him to take control of your life, but realize that repeating a prayer can’t save you. Words can’t “save” you. You have to mean what you say. You have to be willing to make Jesus the Lord and Boss of your life. God knows what’s in your heart, so if you’re willing to give your life to Christ right now, I can either lead you in a prayer or just let you share your heart with God.

But I would like for you to do this aloud. This way I can be a witness to what you are doing.

Sample Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for dying for me and offering me heaven. I'm sorry for the wrong things I've done. Please come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. I give you my life. Thank you for saving me.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

Praying For Salvation

There are no magic words that save a person. God knows what is in the heart. But to lead someone in a prayer, you don't have to have one memorized. Just remember the A...B...C's again. Let them be a guide to you:

A - Admit that you have sinned and be willing to turn from your sin.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I'm sorry for the wrong things I have done...

B - Believe that Jesus is God's Son who died and was raised from the dead. This isn't just believing with your head, but trusting with your heart.

I believe that you are the Son of God and that you died and rose again...

C - Call on the Lord, confess your sins, and commit your life to Him. This is the willingness to turn from your sins and to turn to Christ as your Savior: I give you my life.

Then we always encourage you to have the person end the prayer by saying, "Thank you for saving me...In Jesus' name—Amen." By doing so, even before they finish praying, you are already building in them the assurance that God has been true to His promises.

Talking Tip

If a person says he wants to pray on his own but his prayer doesn't mention anything about accepting Christ and it just sounds like a "Thank you for this day" kind of prayer, when he finishes, simply say, "Now did you want to give your life to Jesus? I'm asking because that's not what you talked to Him about. So, if you want to accept Christ, why don't we pray again and this time just tell Him what you want Him to do. I can help you too." Then help guide him to help him know how to express what he has told you is in his heart. Situations like this don't mean that the person isn't sincere. A lot of times this person has a history of praying but now that he is trying to express his heart he falls back into what is familiar and comfortable for him.

Leading A Person In A Prayer

Some people are afraid to ask if the person wants to pray their own prayer. After all, what if they don't say the right words...but are there right words? God is looking at the heart. When I was saved all I remember saying was "Dear Jesus, please forgive me for my sins." Giving your life to Christ isn't about the words you say but what is in your heart and many times we had rather put words in a person's mouth than just to let them share out of the fullness of a heart that desires Christ.

One of the most beautiful prayers I have ever heard was prayed by an ex-convict who simply said, “God, I got nothing to offer you but if you’ll take me, I’ll come.”

One student I once talked to, who wanted to talk to God on his own, simply said, “God,” then teared up and stopped talking. What should you do? Well, help them out. I simply said, “Just ask God to forgive you...Tell Him that you want Him to save you...and be the Lord of your life...”

Many people, though, especially children prefer to be led in a prayer. A child once told me, “I’m scared to talk to God on my own.” After thinking about this, it made perfect sense. Picture a child who is getting ready to talk to God—the God of all power, who made everything, and a God he doesn’t know—for the first time. I understand why he felt scared.

When you lead someone in a prayer, say one short phrase at a time and give them time to say it back to you. But beforehand remind them that they are saying this to God and not to you.

Dear Lord Jesus...Thank you for dying for me...and offering me heaven... I’m sorry for the wrong things I’ve done...Please...come into my life...and be my Lord and Savior... I give you my life...Thank you for saving me...In Jesus Name, Amen.

Congratulate The New Believer

After a person accepts Christ, congratulate him:

Here’s an example of what to say:

You’ve just made the greatest decision of your life! The Bible promises that if you are willing to commit your life to Christ, He will save you and give you a brand new life. All the wrong things you’ve ever done have been wiped away. You’re forgiven and the Lord has given you a new beginning with Jesus as your Savior and God as your Heavenly Father.

Encourage this new brother or sister in Christ to let others know what they did. Ask them to call two or three people they think would be excited about their decision.

Challenge them to begin growing in their new relationship with Christ by:

- Beginning to pray and talk to Jesus as your friend—tell Him about anything in your life.
- Starting to read the Bible in the Gospel of John to get to know Jesus better.
- Following Jesus in baptism, which is a public statement and symbol that you’ve given your life to Christ.
- Becoming actively involved in a church where people can support you, teach you, and encourage you as you begin the most wonderful relationship you’ll ever have—a friendship with God Himself.

If you are at church when a person accepts Christ, immediately take them to a church leader. This gives that leader an opportunity to reinforce to them the significance and assurance of what they have done.

If you’re talking to a child, immediately congratulate him and give him a big high-five. Let him know how proud and happy you are. Then encourage him to continue growing with Jesus, to tell his parents about what he has done. Let him know that if his parents have any questions about what he has done, that they can call you or the church.

Talking Tip

The list above about growing is not a checklist. Don't lay this out as a "now that you're saved I'm going to burden you with 5,000 things that you have to do. Welcome to the Christian life!" These "outward" things are *NOT* the Christian life. They are an overflow of the Christian life. Praying, reading the Bible, going to church, etc. are the externals that are produced by an internal walk with the Lord. The word "religion" in Latin means "back to bondage." This new believer has not been saved to a "religion" but to a relationship. Help him to understand simply that the more you spend time with someone, the better you know him. The same is true with God. Prayer, Scripture, learning about the Lord at church and fellowshiping with other believers help a person to grow closer to Him. The Christian life is not about squeezing your life into a set of rules; it's about the Rule Himself coming to live His life through your uniquenesses.

Chapter 3

Important Things to Know

Not About Emotions

When I first began leading people to Christ, when someone would get saved, I used to immediately say, “How do you feel?” I was excited and wanted to know what they were thinking and feeling. Then one day I led a man to Christ and said, “How do you feel?” A strange look came across his face and he said, “Am I supposed to feel something?” Suddenly I realized that he had only been a believer for 10 seconds before I gave him his first bit of doubt. People are wired differently. Some cry. Some shiver. Some feel nothing and don’t even look excited. But salvation is not about feelings—it’s about the fact that Jesus will save anyone who genuinely calls on Him to be their Lord and Savior.

I remember a child accepting Christ and his response was so unmoved that I wondered if he had really meant it. He prayed and then ran off to play as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened. But the next day his mother told me about how he was telling everyone at school about what he had done. As he grew I saw how real his decision really was...even though his emotional response was disappointing to me. I learned that I have no right to judge the sincerity of someone’s heart based on the loudness of their emotions.

Important Note About Safety

In today’s society it is extremely important that all of our actions remain above reproach and that in all matters we avoid any hint or appearance of evil or compromise. For this reason, never deal one-on-one with a child, student or person of the opposite sex alone behind closed doors. You must never place yourself in a situation where your actions could be questioned or accusations could be made without public proof of visibility.

If They Say No...

After asking, “Would you like to give your life to Christ?” what if the person says “No”?

Simply ask, “Why Not?”

From this point the conversation can go a hundred different directions, but regardless of their reason, try to help them understand the importance of not waiting to receive Christ.

At the same time, though, don’t be pushy. Try to leave an open door to talk with them again in the future.

Also, let them know that they don’t have to be with you or at church to pray and ask Jesus to save them.

There is no magic prayer; it’s a matter of the heart. They just have to be willing to pray and ask Jesus to come into their lives, to turn from their sins and to turn to Christ as their Savior and Lord.

If They Aren’t Sure...

Saying, “I don’t know” is the same as saying “No, for now.” Encourage the person to consider why he wouldn’t want to make this decision. “What do you think is holding you back from wanting Jesus in your life?”

Sometimes a person may really want to be saved but the idea of surrendering complete control of his life makes him uncertain. On the other hand, sometimes the person is considering if he really is willing to turn from certain, favorite sins. Either way, let him know what he needs to do to be saved and that he can make this decision any time and any place, “even right now,” but explain the importance of not waiting.

Walking Away

After speaking with someone about accepting the Lord, never second-guess what you said or did. Don't give room to thoughts such as, “What if I would have been more clear...” or “What if I would have said this instead...” or “What if it's my fault he didn't want Jesus.” Simply trust that God did in that moment what He wanted to do. In other words, enjoy your relationship with God and enjoy sharing that relationship with others without the burden and self-condemnation of a world of “what ifs.”

Chapter 4

The Stage of Accountability

"Have you ever done anything wrong?" I asked my four-year old son.

"No," he said.

"Never? Never lied or disobeyed?"

"No."

"Then during nap time," I said, recalling an earlier situation, "do you remember when you snuck out of your bed and hid under the desk in the living room?"

"Yes," he said, lowering his eyes.

"Was that wrong?"

"Yes," he mumbled.

"So, have you ever done anything wrong?"

"No," he said, and he believed it.

He was serious. Although he had come to an understanding that some actions are right and some are wrong, he hadn't reached the understanding that HE had done wrong things. This is the stage of accountability, the stage at which an individual comes to the personal understanding that he is a sinner. This is not a term found in the Bible but is a term used to describe the point in life at which a person can distinguish right and wrong and willfully chooses to do wrong. It is at this point that a person becomes accountable for his sins.

Some call this the "Age of Accountability" but "age" seems to imply that it happens at a specific age and it does not. Some children come to this understanding at the age of four or five but others might not reach this stage until they are eight or even older. It's different for each person.

Nevertheless, if a child cannot yet discern right from wrong or doesn't know that he has personally sinned against God, he is not ready to give his life to Christ. Before a person can be saved, he must first understand that he has done wrong things. For this reason, when you are talking with a child, always ask, "Have you ever done anything wrong?" Notice that I didn't ask, "Have you ever sinned?" A child who has not been in church much may not understand the term "sin."

I was sharing Christ with a nine-year old at a camp and asked, "Have you ever sinned?"

He answered "no."

"Have you ever done anything wrong?" I said. "Oh yeah."

He had answered "no", not because he had never sinned, but because he didn't understand what I was saying. When talking with a child, be careful to avoid "churchy" language.

If you are talking to a child that has not yet reached the stage of accountability, just plant a seed for the future by saying something like:

"You know, Johnny, there will be a time in your life when you do something that's wrong. When that time comes, know that God still loves you and has made a way for you to go to Heaven. And, Johnny, if you ever

start thinking about Heaven and how you can go there, come talk to me (or your pastor or Sunday School teachers, or parents if you know they are strong believers.)"

At this time DO NOT pray with him that he'll accept Christ when the time is right. Many people do this without realizing that they are dealing with a young child who may only remember that he talked with somebody about Jesus and someone prayed with him. We don't want to do anything that might give him a false assurance in the future.

I was preaching a revival and about twenty people came forward during the invitation at the end of the service. Immediately my eyes went to two small children. As those seeking to know more about Christ were led out of the worship center, I excused myself and turned the service over to the pastor. It was my first time in this church, I didn't know how well trained their leaders were, and I wanted to make sure that nobody just talked to them for a bit and then led them in a prayer. Scooting through the crowd, I intercepted these two kids and sat down with them. They were both five years old.

"So, why did you come down," I asked.

One shrugged. The other said, "Because I love Jesus."

"That's great," I said. "Can I ask you a question?"

"Sure."

"Okay."

"Have you ever done anything wrong?"

They looked offended. Immediately one of them said, "No." The other shook his head.

"So you've never said anything wrong or told a lie or disobeyed your parents."

"No," they both said.

"Well," I said, as was explained above, "I want you to know that there will be a time in your life when you do something that's wrong. When that time comes, know that God still loves you and has made a way for you to go to Heaven. And, if you ever start thinking about Heaven and how you can go there, come talk to your pastor or Sunday School teachers."

Then I gave them both a high five and took them back into the church service.

Chapter 5

Sharing the Greatest Story of Your Life

Your Story

Another powerful tool for sharing the Gospel is your own salvation story. People might try to argue facts, logic and even Scripture but they can't argue your personal experience.

Your salvation testimony is simply your story about how you came to know Jesus.

- It doesn't have to be "dynamic." Every story of salvation is a story of life-change and the greatest miracle of all. There is no such thing as a "boring" testimony.
- It doesn't have to be long...In fact, it shouldn't be long. Try to keep your salvation testimony to a minute or less. Practice this.

This guide will help you to think through your story of how you came to know Jesus. Write it down but don't memorize it—just learn it. This isn't a presentation; it's a story. Share it from your heart. Let God guide you, and listen to Him as you share it.

When I was younger I knew a man who had heart surgery. After being given certain drugs and as they wheeled him down the hall, he said, "I knew I shouldn't have eaten that taco!" My thought, however, wasn't about tacos. What would naturally come out of my mouth if I were in the same situation? It wasn't a judgmental thought; just something that made me examine myself. And I decided that if I was ever in the same situation, I didn't want to be talking about what I just ate. I wanted to be ready to share Christ in any situation, with any distraction, in any amount of pain, even under anesthesia, I wanted my salvation story to be the first thing to come out of my mouth. So I shared it every day for the purpose that I would be ready to share it easily no matter what.

Share your salvation story as often as you can. Try to share it every day. Practice on your family. Practice on your Christian friends. Practice in the mirror. Practice on your dog...he won't get saved. Practice on your non-Christian friends...some of them might get saved. The more you share your story the more comfortable you will be in sharing your story and more natural it will become.

So let's begin where you began...

Part 1

What started you thinking about giving your life to Jesus?

Were you in church and heard a preacher? Did something happen that made you think about death or heaven? Did a friend do or say something that put these thoughts in your mind?

It is amazing to hear the things that God uses to draw people to Him. As a child I stopped watching *Star Trek* after seeing a movie where Captain Kirk denied the existence of God. However, in college I met a young man training for ministry who came to Christ because of that same scene. As he watched it, he began to wonder, "Could there be a God?" The Lord used a *Star Trek* movie in the process of drawing him to Christ.

What stirred your heart? What started you thinking about giving your life to Jesus?

Write down your thoughts on a piece of paper.

Part 2

What did you do?

As you were thinking about Jesus and heaven, did you talk to someone? Did you talk to your parents? A minister? What did you learn? What did you do? Obviously, in some way, you learned about how Jesus died and rose again to make a way to forgive you, to save you, and to give you eternal life. Then you decided that you wanted Jesus to be the Lord of your life and you called on Him to save you.

Write down your experience.

Part 3

What difference did it make?

So what's different now that you are a believer? What difference did it make in your life? What difference did it make in eternity? The best way to end your salvation story is by saying:

"Because of this I know for sure I'm going to heaven. How about you?"

This simple statement helps you to discover whether or not the person you are talking with knows Jesus also.

If they say, "Sure. I'm going to heaven," ask them how they know for sure. Are they right? Did they share a salvation experience or an answer that you know, according to the Bible, isn't right? Are they trusting something other than Christ for salvation (i.e., "I'm a good person." "I go to church." "I got baptized.")?

If they don't share a genuine salvation experience, then ask for the opportunity to share with them what the Bible says about how a person can know Jesus and spend eternity in heaven. *"Can I show you what the Bible says about how you can know for certain that you would spend eternity in heaven?"*

If they say "yes," then share with them how God can save them just like He saved you. If they say "no" ask if there would be a better time and if not, try leave them with a tract or at least try to leave an open door for sharing with them in the future.

Write down your thoughts.

Pitfalls to avoid when sharing your salvation story

Stick to the point.

Don't share your life story: "I was born at a really young age and I was close to my mother when it happened. But I grew and I grew..." Get to the point. This is the story of how you came to Christ. Cut out everything else that doesn't convey this. For example, you don't need to say, "So I talked to my pastor. His name was Bob and I had known Bob for twelve years. We used to play softball together. We had this cool nickname for him..." What does that have to do with your salvation experience? If nothing, then don't share it.

Keep it brief.

You should be able to share your salvation testimony in a minute or less. Time yourself. Try to share as clearly and briefly as possible.

Avoid churchy language.

If someone hasn't grown up in church, they may not understand churchy language. If you say, "I walked down the aisle" referring to go forward during a church invitation, someone who hasn't been in church may associate it with their only experience of "walking down an aisle" which is probably the day they were married. With children I stopped using the phrase, "I asked Jesus into my heart," because there was a child who said, "I don't want to do that." Why not? "Because He's a big man and I'm just a little girl." She was being literal. *Big man* plus *Little heart* equals *Big mess!* She didn't understand the terminology.

When I have used the term "saved," a biblical term, I have had children ask, "What do you mean that you were 'saved'? Did you fall in a swimming pool and someone pull you out?"

Even, when I am speaking with a child, if I ask, "Have you ever sinned?" I always follow by saying, "Have you ever done anything wrong?" I started doing this after having several children tell me, "No. I've never sinned." Then I would ask, "Have you ever done anything wrong?" and they would immediately say, "Oh yeah." It wasn't that they hadn't done wrong things; they just didn't understand the term that I was using. As you are working on your salvation testimony, listen to it with the ears of someone who hasn't been in church. Listen also with the ears of a child. Do you hear anything confusing?

How do you create opportunities to share Jesus with others?

If you have a friend that is lost, how do you bring it up without feeling awkward or off-the-wall. Here are some suggestions:

- Ask, "*Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?*" If they say, "yes," then share your salvation testimony, the story of how you were saved. If they say "no," then it's probably a bad time and there will be a better time later.
- Look for situational opportunities: Is something going on in this person's life that might be making them think about spiritual matters? Did heaven or God or Jesus just come up in a conversation? Did someone just use God's name in vain and you can kindly explain to them how important that name is to you?
- Pray and ask God to open up doors for you to share His love with others. The single greatest thing that stops people for sharing Jesus is an unwilling heart.

Review

The best way to create an opportunity to share your salvation story is by saying, ***“Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?”***

There are three basic parts to your salvation story:

- What started you thinking about giving your life to Jesus?
- What did you do?
- What difference did it make?

The best way to create an opportunity to share your salvation story is by saying, ***“Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?”***

The best way to end your story is by saying, ***“Because of this I know for sure I’m going to heaven. What about you?”***

This question puts the “ball” in their court to help you find out whether or not they have had a genuine salvation experience and to help you know how to proceed in your conversation with them.

My first week sharing my story

Share your testimony every day with week and write down the names of the people with whom you shared and any thoughts or experiences you had.

Chapter 6

Kids Leading Kids to Christ

“Sometimes the biggest examples come in the smallest packages.”

–Anonymous

Imagine a fourth grade student meeting another child in the McDonald’s play area. They play for a while. Then he asks, “Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?” The new friend responds yes and the child begins to share his salvation testimony. Soon the student is drawing on the back of gum wrapper a picture that walks his new friend through the plan of salvation and before long they are bowing their heads to move from new friends in McDonalds to new brothers in Christ.

Imagine a fifth grader at a sleepover. He has been thinking about sharing Christ with his friend and looking for the right opportunity and before the night is over his friend has accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Picture a fourth grader at Chick-Fil-A. He and his dad are getting ready to leave when he says that he feel that God wants him to go to the play area to tell the other children about Jesus. Dad sits down and watches as his son meets new kids, tells them about Christ, sits down with a girl and eventually leads her to saving faith in the Lord.

Imagine a second grader on the back porch with a neighbor. They talk about a lot of things but on this day he tells her what Jesus means to him and continues to tell her how he was saved and how she can do the same. Moments later his dad is across the street, talking to her mom about how she gave her life to Christ. Her mom wipes tears from her eyes and says, “Thank you.”

These are all true stories of kids leading kids to Christ. In the backyard, at school, in the cafeteria, on the bus, on the ball field, at church, and even on the playground, these children are doing more than just attending Sunday School—they are learning that God has given them a very significant task in everyday life.

If a child can do this...so can you. It simply begins with a willing heart.

One of our kindergarten students, who attended Christian school, drove past a public school in our community. Her mom said, “You know, the teachers there can’t talk about Jesus.”

Her daughter was quiet for a moment and then said, “I want to go to school there.”

“Why?” the mom asked, surprised.

“Because someone has to tell them about Jesus.”

That reminds me of Isaiah: “I heard the Lord’s voice, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8-9a).

Nevertheless, children are the most overlooked part of our churches. We expect them to attend and participate but do we really expect them to share Christ. Do we expect them to be ministers? Unfortunately, most do not and because we don’t expect this, we don’t train our children. In other words, the greatest anchor to the children in our churches following Christ is our own low expectations of them.

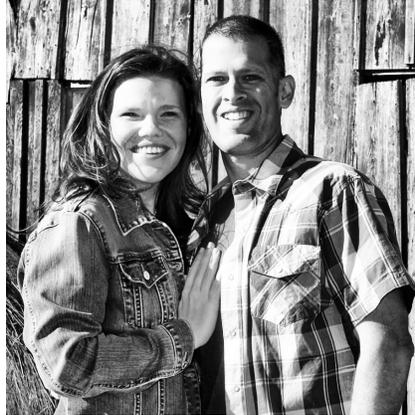
But what would happen if we adopted a new perspective? In foreign missions, we understand that a Japanese believer is the best witness for a lost Japanese man. Who better to reach a Jew for Jesus than a Christian Jew? Who better to reach a Russian with the Gospel than a Russian? In the same way, who better to reach a child for Christ than a child? They speak the same “language.”

The plan of salvation and the information on how to share your salvation story in this book is the same information that we have used to train hundreds of children. And the app that is mentioned at the beginning of this book was originally created to help students share the Gospel on-the-go.

So here’s the challenge: Always be prepared to share the Gospel anywhere and with any age and take time to train your own children to have the same readiness.

This booklet is a portion of a book called *20 Seconds of Courage*. Purchase the entire book at www.330resources.org/books.

About the Authors



Kolby & Mary Beth King

God changed their lives...

With that being said, Kolby is the children's minister at First Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, where he and Mary Beth, his wife, minister to 150 elementary students each week. They are also the founders of three-thirty ministries, a resource network for the purpose of providing affordable resources to churches and families around the world. Kolby is a ventriloquist (which basically means he likes to talk to himself) and Mary Beth eats fire as a way of sharing the Gospel. During their years in evangelism and student ministry, they picked up other interesting ministry tools including stunts with six-foot balloons, balloon sculptures, fire-juggling (which one should never do on a windy day!), and a variety of other unique activities for the purpose of sharing Jesus with others.

Learn more about events or training conference they can bring to your church or organization at <http://www.threethirtyministries.org>.

"Jesus must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30

Check out more books by Kolby and Mary Beth King at Smashwords.com.