

Foreword by Dr. Michelle Anthony
Vice President and Publisher, Learning Resources at David C. Cook



Talk Now and Later

How to Lead
Kids Through
Life's Tough
Topics

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chapter 1

How to Talk to Your Kids About God

In my twenty-two years as a kids' pastor, I can't tell you how many times a parent has walked up to me after church and said, "My son was asking me questions about baptism last night. Would you meet with him to explain what water baptism is all about?" I've received countless emails that say something like, "My daughter asked me what it means to be saved. I don't want to confuse her, so can I set her up an appointment with you this week? I'm sure you can explain it better than I can." Parents have asked me to talk to their kids about every conceivable spiritual question. I'm happy to help, but the primary resources for these kids should be their own parents.

Too often, parents and grandparents believe they aren't qualified to impart spiritual wisdom to kids. Many parents are hesitant to take on the role of primary spiritual influence in their kids' lives for several reasons:

- They're concerned they won't say the right words or they won't be able to communicate in a way the child understands.
- They're worried their child will ask them a question they don't know the answer to—and then they'll look stupid.
- They believe theological concepts are just too hard to understand—for themselves as well as their kids—and aren't willing to put in the time and effort it takes to shape their son's or daughter's spiritual life.
- They don't want to fail at something so important, so they don't even try.

I understand the hesitation. You love your kids. You want them to grow in their relationship with God, and you don't want to “mess that up.” You don't feel equipped to speak about deep spiritual issues on a child's level. That's the normal response of most parents, but it's completely off base.

Let me take you off the hook . . . at least a little bit. It's not entirely your fault you feel this way. In fact, I have a confession to make: I, along with the church as a whole for the

last few decades, have gotten in the way of parents being the first and primary spiritual resource for their kids. In many ways, we (church leaders in general and children's ministers specifically) are to blame. We have hijacked the spiritual development of kids by promoting the idea that a "professional children's minister" is the only qualified, competent person to speak spiritual truth into children's lives. To some degree, we've developed a "savior complex," elevating our roles as the highest and best source of spiritual input for kids. Though we didn't plan it, this perspective lowered parents to second-class status. Ultimately, we became a hindrance to God's plan. Here's the truth: God's plan is for *parents* to be the primary spiritual leaders of their children.

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It's Your Privilege . . . and Responsibility

God instituted the family long before He created the church, and kids' ministry leaders came along many centuries later. The first chapters of Genesis establish the family as the primary social unit under the leadership of God. When the people of God left Egypt and were on their way to the Promised Land, Moses had plenty of time to teach them

about God's plans for every area of their lives, including their families. In the desert, Moses clearly outlined the ministry of the priests, yet he also explained the parents' role:

But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren. Never forget the day when you stood before the Lord your God at Mount Sinai, where he told me, "Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me also." (Deut. 4:9–10)

But Moses wasn't finished. Spiritual input wasn't to be reserved for one day a week. Parents were to live and love and model biblical truth all day every day:

So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deut. 11:18–20)

Solomon and Paul continued to explain the central role of parents in the spiritual nurture of children:

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. (Prov. 22:6)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

The Numbers Don't Lie

Throughout Scripture, God clearly explains that He has given parents the privilege and responsibility of shaping their kids' spiritual lives. It was not and is not God's plan for parents to bring their kids to church a couple of times each month and assume the children's ministry will take care of their spiritual development.

The numbers simply don't work: Even if your child attends an hour-long program at church every week, that's only fifty-two hours a year—and most families don't attend every week. In fact, the definition of "regular church attendance" has changed so much in the past decades that the term currently applies to some of those who go to church fewer than half of the Sundays in a year.⁴ The reasons for the decline in attendance are many and varied: children's sports

teams often schedule games on Sundays; more parents have disposable income and take their families on trips or to a second home; and inspiring church services are available on television or online.

Quite often, children want to participate in church activities, but the parents have other priorities. I'll never forget the child who desperately wanted to be a part of a summer ministry event, but his dad refused because it would cut into his son's baseball practices. The boy was ready to choose growing in his relationship with God over baseball, but his father was more concerned about his batting average than his spiritual growth.

Perhaps you're not one of those parents. Maybe you make sure your child attends both church and the youth group to benefit from a dedicated children's ministry team that works hard at developing resources, planning lessons, and creating an atmosphere where your child will learn, worship, and draw closer to God while developing strong relationships with other young Christians. I applaud your commitment! But this scenario has a problem: it still only covers two hours a week, or 104 hours a year. The paid professionals and volunteers in church ministries, no matter how excellent they are, can't give your children all they need to live a strong, effective Christian life in only two hours a week. Moses, Solomon, and Paul all knew that!

Parents have an average of more than seventy waking hours each week with their children. That's 3,640 hours a

year—not including their time at school and sleeping. Of course, many kids are involved in extracurricular activities, but those are things we choose; they're not required. And parents may not actually use the seventy hours each week to connect to their kids in meaningful ways, but the time is there.

Charles Spurgeon was one of the greatest preachers of the 19th century. He was known for his brilliant insights into the Scriptures and his powerful application of spiritual truth to individuals' lives. In his book, *Spiritual Parenting*, he wrote,

Children must be fed. They must be well fed, or instructed, because they are in danger of having their cravings perversely satisfied with error. The only way to keep chaff out of the child's cup is to fill it brimful with good wheat. The more the young are taught, the better; it will keep them from being misled.⁵

The truth is that leading children in their spiritual development is one of the greatest joys in life.

Pouring ourselves into young lives isn't a grind. Far from it! The truth is that leading children in their spiritual development is one of the greatest joys in life.

When my daughter Ashton was a little girl, Cherith and I began reading the Bible to her and praying with her. She asked lots of questions, and we had wonderful conversations. Then, one night, it happened. I was praying with Ashton before she went to sleep. She looked up at me and said, “Daddy, can I ask Jesus into my heart?”

I asked her what she thought that meant. Her answers showed me she definitely understood God’s love and forgiveness, so I led my daughter in the prayer of salvation.

It was an unbelievable experience! Cherith and I celebrated the amazing born-again experience of our daughter. I was on cloud nine! Over the next several days, I told everyone about God giving me the privilege of leading my own daughter to the Lord. I was present for the most important moment in my child’s life. It was one of the greatest joys of my life!

So now when parents bring a child to me and ask me to lead him to Jesus, I explain the joyous opportunity they might be missing. I give them some pointers about how they can talk to their child about Jesus and pray together. I want to equip and inspire you, as well, to have meaningful spiritual conversations with your kids, your grandkids, or your nieces and nephews.

1. “Spiritual growth” is a topic for many conversations, not just one.

Remember, Moses told the people to talk with their kids about God “when you sit at home and when you walk

along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Don’t wait until you think your kids are “old enough” to talk to them about God. Their training starts from the moment they’re born (or even earlier, in the womb). Talk to them about God’s grace, His love, His mercy, His provision, and His purpose for their lives. Talk on their level, but talk!

Moses mentions “when you lie down and when you get up.” I think those are crucial moments in our daily schedules. Right before bed is a perfect time to stop, talk to your kids, and pray with them.

My kids know that every night before bed, Cherith and I will stop whatever we’re doing to pray with them about the day they just had. In the morning, we don’t try to talk and pray with them as soon as they get up. I’m not sure if the reason is that they’re not coherent at that time of the morning, or if I’m not coherent. Either way, it doesn’t work for us. Instead, we use the drive to school as an opportunity to have good conversations. Rather than cranking up the radio or an MP3, my kids and I use our morning commute as a time to memorize Scripture and quiz each other.

Those two times work in our family, but you have to find the times that work best for you and your kids. You don’t have to follow my example or the model of any other parent—but you need to find something that works! Regular spiritual conversations are crucial. We all need to hear spiritual truth many times and from several different perspectives. Have you ever wondered why the New Testament

contains four Gospels? Wasn't one story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus enough? They all say the same thing, don't they? Well, yes and no. Each one approaches the same eternal truth from a different angle. We need to hear and read and understand all of them to get a clear picture of the nature of Jesus Christ. In the same way, all of us—parents and kids alike—need many conversations about the gospel and the gospel's impact to help us understand salvation and our new motivation to obey God. Many rich and varied conversations show your kids that God is the center of your family and permeates everything you do.

2. Share what you know.

Don't feel like you need a Bible college degree before you start talking to your kids about God. Share what you already know—and believe it or not, you probably know a lot! Tell what you know to be true about God and His love.

Don't feel like you need a Bible college degree before you start talking to your kids about God.

Talk about what it was like for you to become a Christian. Review what you learned in church on Sunday. Describe what God showed you as you read your Bible this morning. No matter where you are on your own spiritual journey, you have plenty to share with your kids.

3. Learn more so you can share more.

Don't take the lazy route. Be a *disciple*, which means "student" or "learner." Spend time with God daily, and read His Word. When your kids see that you are passionate about God and Scripture, your example will be a catalyst for many conversations about what matters most to you: God, His love, and His will for your life.

Paradoxically, the more you know, the more you realize how much you don't know. That's not a bad thing . . . unless it intimidates you. As you learn more, your questions will multiply. If you aren't sure about something, ask someone.

Not long ago I received an email from a dad. He wrote, "I have questions about how to talk to my son about baptism. He showed an interest in getting baptized this past Sunday after church. Where should I begin?"

I was thrilled to get his message! Notice that he didn't ask, "Can I make an appointment for you to explain baptism to my son?" He asked, "How do I talk to him?" I was most eager to help.

The more you learn, the more you can share with your child . . . and you'll be a resource to help other parents learn to talk to their kids, too.

4. Pray daily with your kids.

It's a good thing to pray at meals, but pray more often than that. Pray when they leave for school, when they go to bed, and when you or they face a difficult choice. Let prayer become part of the fabric of your family's life.

You don't have to pray grand, long prayers that sound like a preacher: "O Jehovah, I beseech thee on behalf of my offspring. . ." Let your prayers be simple, honest, and heartfelt. Prayer is simply talking to God and allowing Him to speak to you. That's the kind of prayer kids appreciate, and it's the kind they are far more likely to emulate. As your kids see how much you value prayer, it will increasingly become part of their daily lives, too.

When you pray with your kids regularly, you never know what kinds of opportunities will arise for meaningful spiritual conversations. Melody Jones told me a story about her daughter, Morgan. They pray every day while driving to school. One morning Morgan asked if they could pray for her to learn a lot about Jesus at school that day. But there was a problem: Morgan didn't go to a Christian school. Melody told her, "We can't pray you will learn a lot about Jesus at school today because they aren't allowed to teach you about Jesus."

Morgan thought for a moment, and then she simply adjusted her prayer. She prayed, "God, help me to teach people at this school about You. I want to be a missionary to my school."

That morning in a conversation about prayer and school, Morgan had a major revelation about what it means to share the love of Jesus with her friends. All of that happened because Melody made daily prayer with Morgan a priority.

5. Have regular family devotions with your kids.

Just as regular conversations and prayer with your children should be simple and natural, so should family devotions. Gather your family together, read a passage in the Bible, and discuss what it means. Elevate the importance of the Bible. One of the core values for our church, our children's ministry, and our family is: "The Bible tells us about God and His grace. It's our guidebook for living."

I suspect that many parents read the previous paragraph, throw up their hands, and moan, "Well, great. That's a lot of help. My Bible has over 2,000 pages. Where do I find a passage that makes sense to me?"

Don't despair, and by all means, don't give up! You can find plenty of really good resources to use if you need them. Find some that work well for you and your family, and dive in! You may run across some questions that challenge you and your children. Don't be shocked. Use the opportunity to say, "I don't know the answer to that. I'm going to find out. We'll talk about it again when I have some answers."

Every family has a different rhythm. Maybe the best thing is for your family to have family devotions on Tuesday night, or maybe it's Saturday morning. Find a regular time you and your family can take a timeout from the busy schedule of life to talk about God, the Bible, and what each of you are learning. (For downloadable instructions and a sample of family devotions, go to www.briandollar.com and click on *Talk Now and Later*. You'll find this resource and many others.)

6. *Worship with your kids.*

Kids need to see their parents praising God and responding to Him with honesty, joy, and gratitude. When a parent is excited about worshiping God, it's contagious. Many churches don't provide a time when the whole family, including babies and toddlers, come together to worship. I understand that little kids (and sometimes bigger kids) can be disruptive, but all children need to see, hear, and feel a worship experience with their parents. I know it's inconvenient for many people, but it needs to happen sometime, somewhere, somehow.

Of course, worship isn't restricted to church buildings. We can make it a part of our family devotions and everyday life at home.

7. *Serve with your kids.*

One of the ways to teach our children *about* God is to do things with them *for* God. Every community and most churches have plenty of organizations and ministries that are family-friendly. No, you're probably not going to take your children to work with addicts and prostitutes, and you're not going into crack houses to share the love of Jesus there. Those ministries are important, but they're for adults.

One of the ways to teach our children *about* God is to do things with them *for* God.

Ministry is about using your gifts, talents, time, and abilities to serve God and others. God created you for a purpose and gifted you and your kids for a reason: to use your gifts for His kingdom. The opportunities to make a difference in your church and community are almost limitless. Here are some examples of opportunities to connect your family with others in meaningful ways:

- Serve with your older kids in your church's nursery or children's ministry.
- Work with an organization that feeds the homeless.
- Participate in a clothing drive for a women's and children's shelter.
- Invite an exchange student to live with you.
- Work on a Habitat for Humanity housing project.
- Usher at church together.
- Organize a singing group to go to nursing homes.
- Serve in the resource room for a crisis pregnancy center.
- Identify disadvantaged people in your community and serve them by doing work in the yard, painting, or cleaning.
- Serve in the community food pantry.

Take advantage of opportunities for your whole family to serve together in ministry. It's effective, it's appreciated, and it's fun.

Serving together opens many doors for spiritual conversations. Almost invariably, the exposure to the real needs in people's lives brings up a lot of questions: What happened to them? Why do they need our help? How long have they been like this? How long will it last? Who else is helping them? What's the future for them? How can we pray for them? Every person in the family should be involved in ministry somewhere!

A heart for God is more often caught than taught. Allow your kids to see the heart of Jesus in you as you serve together. Serving together may make more of a difference in their openness to God than anything else you can do. Don't miss this golden opportunity!

8. Model godly behavior for your kids.

Too many moms and dads subscribe to the erroneous philosophy: "Do as I say, not as I do." This is, not to put too fine a point on it, a disaster! This approach abdicates the God-given responsibility to be an example your kids want to follow. Modeling is far more powerful than verbal instruction as a teaching tool. What we do speaks far more loudly than our words, especially if our actions and words are inconsistent! Rarely will children have higher moral standards, higher academic standards, higher relational standards, and a higher sense of purpose than their parents.

In *Nurturing the Leader within Your Child*, Dr. Tim Elmore asserts:

Perhaps the best exercise for you, as a parent, is to ask yourself: What leadership qualities and skills do I naturally model? These you will pass on whether you try to or not. Your kids will catch your lifestyle. Next, ask: Which leadership qualities and skills do I lack but need to possess because they are so critical for my child to learn? We teach what we know, but we reproduce what we are.⁶

Modeling is far more powerful than verbal instruction as a teaching tool.

Similarly, it's sobering but essential to ask yourself, "Will my children be drawn closer to God if they pattern their life after my . . .

- entertainment choices?"
- vocabulary?"
- reactions to those who hurt me?"
- acceptance of those who are different from me (ethnically, racially, economically, etc.)?"
- compassion for the lost?"

If you want to have meaningful spiritual conversations with your kids, make sure your actions don't invalidate your words; model godly behavior for your kids.

9. Allow your kids to ask questions.

Kids ask questions . . . plenty of questions. It's what kids do. I know it wears you out and makes you tired, but their curiosity is a good thing. When kids ask questions, it opens the door for spiritual conversation and growth. Encourage their questions, celebrate them, and ask for more.

Several friends shared some of the questions their kids have asked.

Lori said, "My kids understand God created the universe, but they always want to know, 'Who created God?'"

Brenda said, "My son asked me why we should pray for things since God already knows what's going to happen before we were even born."

Jenny's daughter asked, "Why does God let bad things happen to good people?"

These are excellent and very difficult questions.

I know what you're thinking, "What if my kid asks me a question about the rapture or whether or not our dead cat is going to be in heaven?" Don't panic. Here's the answer . . .

10. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know."

It might be a blow to your ego to actually admit you don't have the answer to a question your kids ask, but don't

worry. It won't destroy your kids' confidence in your parenting skills. Actually, it's healthy for you to admit to your children that you don't know something, because then you can . . .

11. Discover the answer together.

Make your search for the answer an adventure. Look it up in the Bible together. As a family, discover what God's Word says. If you're still stumped, ask a pastor or other spiritual leader about it, or ask another parent whose kids are a little older and probably asked the same question.

Not knowing isn't the end of the world. In fact, it's a wonderful thing for the kids to see you excited about finding what the Bible says about a particular subject. You're showing them that exploring the Bible for answers to tough questions is normal . . . exciting . . . and worth the effort.

However, don't assume there's a simple, right answer to every question. For centuries, brilliant Bible scholars have debated some very difficult issues. Especially with older kids, it may be helpful to explain different (even opposing) positions and let the differences become fuel for wonderful discussions.

12. Explain the gospel in clear, understandable terms.

Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not suggesting you "dumb down" the gospel message. Jesus said all of us—kids

and adults alike—are to become like children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:2–4).

On the other hand, don't assume your child isn't ready when he or she shows a desire to trust in Christ. I've known parents who wouldn't let their children receive Christ or be baptized because the children couldn't explain the theology well enough to suit the parents. They make the decision for their child: "Nope! Now is not the time for you to accept Jesus! You just don't understand it well enough."

**When you explain the gospel to your child,
use simple, clear terms.**

A certain level of theology is crucial, but only enough to tap into the marvelous truth of God's amazing grace. I haven't seen a particular point when all children have the ability to grasp the message of God's forgiveness through Christ. Every kid is different, so be ready to explain it and offer an opportunity to receive Christ.

When you explain the gospel to your child, use simple, clear terms. Don't talk like a biblical philosopher, trying to sound really smart. Jesus didn't. He used parables and stories to help people understand biblical truth.

- When He was in a farming community, He talked about how the kingdom of God was like a farmer sowing seed.
- When He was with fishermen, He compared living for God to “fishing for people.”
- With a woman who had gone to a well, He offered “living water.”
- To connect with anyone and everyone, Jesus explained that He was—and is—the source of true nourishment, safety, and hope. He said, “I am the bread of life,” “the light of the world,” “the gate for the sheep,” “the good shepherd,” “the resurrection and the life,” and “the true vine.”

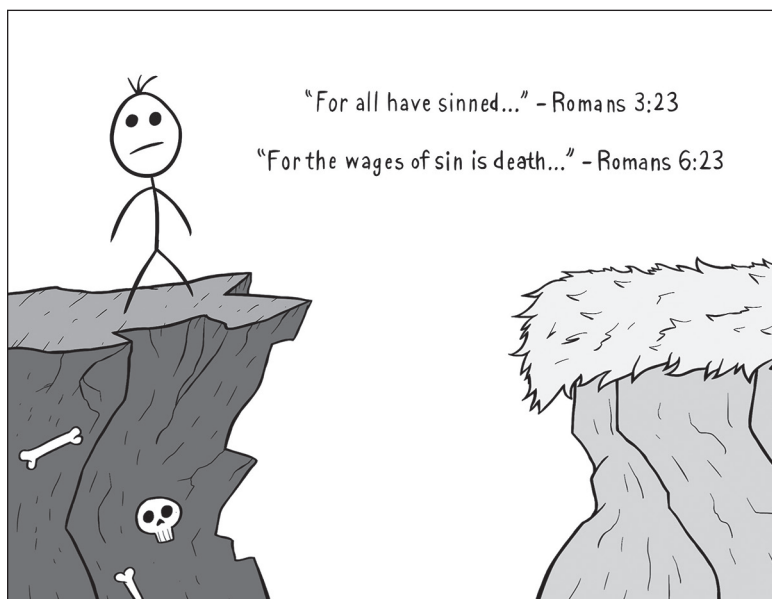
People understood what Jesus said. He used everyday language and common objects to illustrate the gospel message and make it come alive for the listener.

Jesus found ways to connect the heart of God with each person He met. But today we have many different and practical methods we can use to present the gospel. I want to walk you through a very simple method I have used thousands of times to explain the gospel to kids. It’s called “the bridge.” All I need is a blank sheet of paper and a pen.

It starts at the beginning. I draw two plateaus (out West, they call them mesas), with a deep chasm between them.

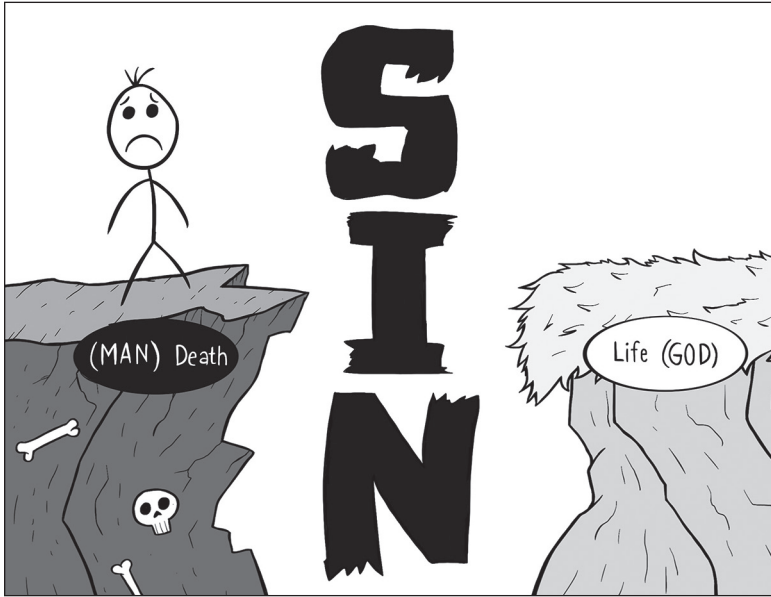


God created the first people (Adam and Eve) and placed them in the Garden of Eden where everything was perfect. They enjoyed a close relationship with God. Sadly, one day Adam and Eve decided to disobey God and eat of the fruit that God had commanded them not to eat. When we disobey God, that's called sin. Sin is bad behavior, but it's more than that; bad behavior shows that we want to run our lives without God. That's what caused Adam and Eve to disobey God—they wanted to run their lives apart from Him. When the first sin was committed, something terrible took place.

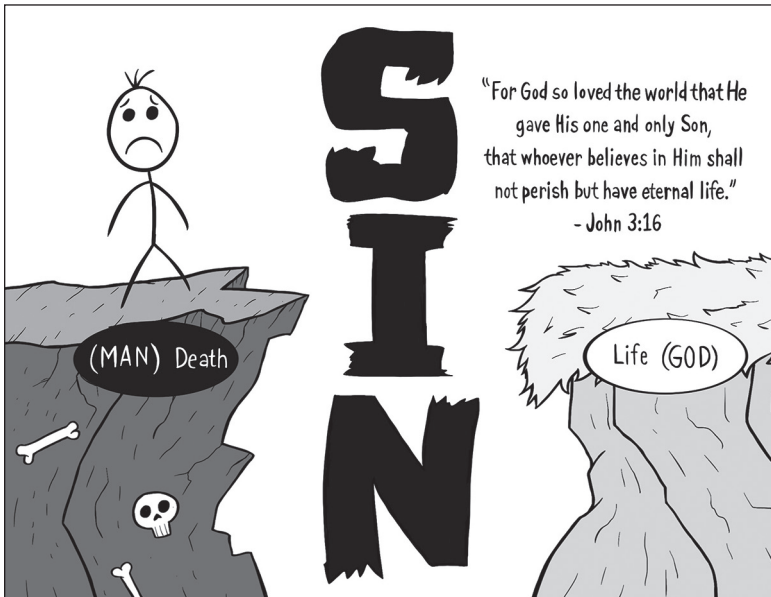


Suddenly, humankind was separated from God. The separation didn't apply only to Adam and Eve, but to everyone who followed them as well. In Romans 3:23, Paul explained, "For everyone has sinned." That means you, me, and *every-one*. And because of sin, Paul told us in Romans 6:23, "The wages [or payment] of sin is death."

Death is separation from life. In other words, sin caused us to be separated from eternal life—the love, joy, peace, and purpose God had planned for us. Now people are on one side, dying in their sin. God and His eternal life are on the other side. And there's a problem: People can't get to God because of sin. The payment for sin has to be made by someone, either us or someone else—but who?

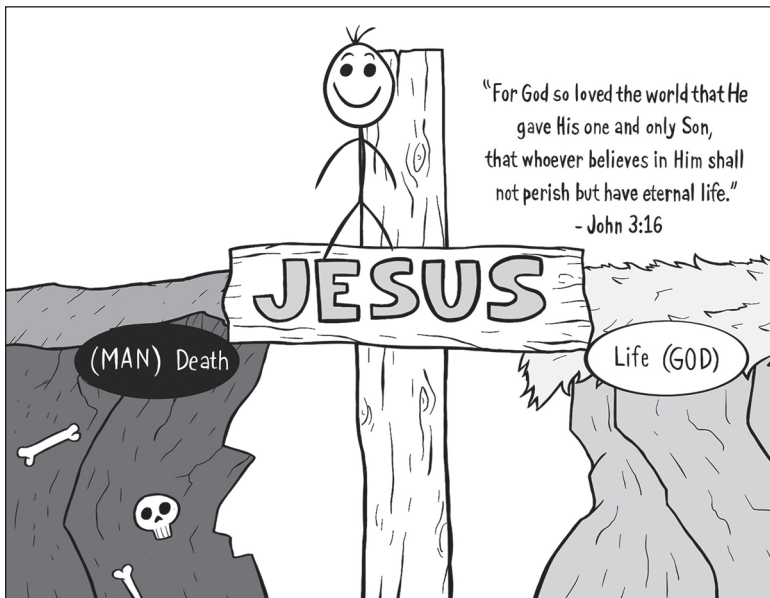


God had a solution.



In John 3:16, Jesus tells us what God did to remedy the problem: “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus came to earth and died on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Because of Jesus, we don’t have to pay for our sins because He paid the price for us.



Because Jesus died and rose again, He created a bridge we can cross to get to God. How do we do that? First John 1:9 tells us: “If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

When we accept what Jesus did on the cross and ask His forgiveness for our sins, we are no longer separated from God. We are brought back together with Him. He welcomes

us into His family, and we will live forever with Him in heaven! That's His promise!

That's the message I share with children, but it works just as well with teenagers and adults. In fact, it was originally developed by an organization called The Navigators that shares the gospel with adults. You don't have to memorize a hundred passages of Scripture and study theology to explain the gospel to a child. God wasn't trying to make it hard to understand. His truth is plain and simple. God loves you! God loves every child! God has a plan for every man, woman, boy, and girl to be in relationship with Him!

There are two kinds of good news here. The gospel of forgiveness and eternal life is the good news that changes lives, but it's also wonderful news that God wants to use you—a parent, a grandfather or grandmother, an uncle or aunt, or another loving adult—to be the primary spiritual influence in the life of the child(ren) you love. When our hearts are melted and molded by the love of God, and when we're amazed that Jesus would willingly—even gladly—give His life to pay for our sins and make us His own, talking about the gospel isn't a chore. The love of God pours out of us because Jesus has poured His love into us . . . and His love changes everything, for us and for our kids.

It's important to remember that your child's response isn't up to you. We can't make someone else believe. Our task is to be as loving and clear as possible, and then leave

the results to God. In any conversation about God, there's always another person present: God Himself! Before we talk to kids about God, it's wise to talk to God about our kids. Here's my prayer for them and for you.

Father, thank You for the precious children You have put in our care. We love them and we realize You love them even more. We ask You to open their hearts to understand the wonder of Your love, forgiveness, and acceptance. Use us to make it clear, and use Your Spirit to open little hearts and minds to grasp the truth. We ask, Lord, that these children will grow strong in their faith and become mighty warriors in Your kingdom! Continue to use us, Lord, to guide them, to correct them, and to love them every step of the way. In the wonderful name of Jesus, Amen.

Now, you're ready. You can do it!

About the Author

Brian has been a kids' pastor since 1992. His wife, Cherith, joined him in ministry in 1998. Together they have passionately served children and families in an effort to raise up a generation of lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.

Brian approaches kids' ministry with a cutting-edge style, leading a volunteer staff of over 150 in ministering to the children at First Assembly of God in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Every week, over 600 children gather for high-energy worship, games, and life-changing ministry from their dynamic ministry team.

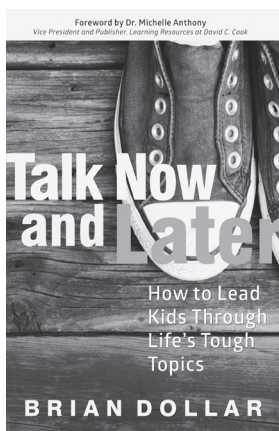
In 1998, he founded High Voltage Kids Ministry Resources, which creates attention-getting multimedia, Children's Church curriculum, music, and videos. High Voltage Kids Ministry resources have been used in more than 5,000 churches across America. (highvoltage-kids.com)

Brian has a passion for training and equipping other Kids Ministry leaders to be effective in their churches. He has been a featured speaker at many children's pastors' conferences, seminars, camps, and retreats and is the author of *I Blew It*.

Brian's blog is found at www.briandollar.com. He uses the blog to coach other kids' ministry leaders by answering their questions weekly.

Brian and Cherith have a daughter, Ashton, and a son, Jordan. They love spending time together, watching movies, and cheering for the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks. They currently reside in Little Rock, Arkansas.

For More Information



For more information about these and other valuable resources visit www.salubrisresources.com



In this book, Brian opens his heart and his life to share his biggest failures as a kid's pastor. Some of the principles are about ministry philosophy, strategy, and communication, but the most important ones—the lessons that will make you laugh and melt your heart—are about the deeper qualities of fear and hope, pride and humility. As you read this book, trust God to change you from the inside out.

Willing to traverse the rugged terrain of what was once considered taboo in Christian parenting, Dollar gives honest answers and insights into the difficult questions that families wrestle with every day.

—Dr. Michelle Anthony

It's a challenge to be a parent today. It's an even greater challenge to be a Christian parent. Brian Dollar's book provides insight and answers to the questions about how to influence our children for Christ. He reminds us that we are not parenting alone—we can rely on God's wisdom.

When you read this book you will feel encouraged and equipped to guide your child through challenging conversations about topics such as:

God • Death & Tragedy • Sex • Bullying

Through real-life stories and practical application, Brian teaches how to build enduring relationships with your children. If you are open and honest with them when they are young, you will have the confidence and courage to tackle those difficult teen conversations.



Brian has been a kids' pastor since 1992. Currently he leads a volunteer staff of over 150 who minister to the children at First Assembly of God in North Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1998, he founded High Voltage Kids Ministry Resources, which creates cutting-edge, multimedia, children's church curriculum, music, and videos. These resources have been used in more than 5,000 churches across America. He is also the author of *I Blew It*.

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