

START HERE

for KIDS

JUST FOR PARENTS



This is an exciting time in your child's life. They're starting to ask questions about their faith. They're wondering about God and His love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—questions that you may struggle with yourself, or questions that may not have a simple answer. But that's ok. This is a starting point for you and your kids to begin a life-long conversation about faith. That's why we want you to "Start Here" with John 3:16. It lays the foundation for God's love for us that sent Jesus to be our Savior.

In the book your child received, we'll break the verse down, and look up other verses, with some questions to help you start a conversation with your kids.

Here are some quick things to keep in mind:

1. In the New Testament, it was not uncommon for an entire household to be saved on the same day.
2. If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, or you are not sure if you have, now is the perfect time. Why not settle the question for yourself, as well as, for your child.
3. Remember:
 - a. It's not about being good enough.
 - b. We are not saved by praying a prayer. We are not saved because there is something magical or special about the water. We are saved by putting our faith in Jesus as our Savior.
 - c. You can do this, God designed you to do this and He has equipped you. Enjoy this process, it is a major milestone in your child's life!
 - d. Miss Hannah is here to help! hannah@greencastlecc.org or 765-653-5816

Use this QR code to link to a video.
Watch this first before diving into this book!

BEGINNING A CONVERSATION ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He wants to have a relationship with us. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a freedom of choice.

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD...

GOD

God loved you before you were even born. He created you in His image. He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from Him, something that keep us from being with Him forever. It's called sin. It's the stuff we do wrong.

Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us.

And on our own, we can't do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. But because God loves us, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

Ask your child:

- What is sin?
- Have you ever sinned? When?
- What is the problem with sin?
- Read Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 3:23.

GOD US JESUS.

God gave the most important, valuable and perfect thing He had for us. He knew that our sin would keep us from living with Him forever. We're apart from God and would stay that way but because God loved us, He gave His Son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for you to be in God's story. And Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later. Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again.

Ask your child:

- What did God give us?
- Why did God give this gift?
- What did Jesus do for us?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Peter 3:18 and Romans 5:8

John 14:6 tells us the ONLY way to get to God. What is it?

WHAT WE NEED TO DO...

ANYONE WHO

IN JESUS.

When you receive a gift what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift by believing. Believing simply means to trust. It's a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight on it. You trust that it will hold you up. That's what it's like to believe in or to trust in this gift. To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.

Ask your child:

- What does it mean to trust in something?
- How do you know God loves you?

The Muddy Girl

There once was a little girl who disobeyed her parents and played in the mud. When she got home, her father stopped her before she walked in the house. He took her outside and used a hose to wash off the mud before bringing her into the house.

This is what God does. While He loves you, He cannot be around you when you are dirty with sin. You must let Him wash away your sins.

SO NOW WHAT?

God has given us His one and only son to die for our sins. He has the gift of eternal life waiting for all of us. All we have to do is accept it. So how do we do that?

**Acts
16:30-31**

the first thing you need to do is...

**Acts
3:19**

next you need to...

**Romans
10:9-10**

then you need to...

**Acts
8:12**

finally you should...

WHY ARE WE BAPTIZED?

Read through the following Scriptures and write down what you find out:

Luke 3:21

Acts 2:38

Acts 22:16

1 Peter 3:21

NOW FOR THE BEST PART!

We _____ forever with God.

John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. When you believe in Jesus and are obedient in baptism, you begin a new relationship with God that starts right away and goes on forever. Someday we will still die, but we get to spend forever and ever with God in a place that He made perfect.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, what is this promise?

Ask your child:

- What happens when you believe in Jesus?
- What are the differences in God's story and all other stories?
- What will being a part of God's Big Story mean for you?



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Read Matthew 22:35-39, what are the 2 things that all Christians are supposed to do all of the time?

Matthew 28:18-19 tells us what we should do if we really love God and people. What is it?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tell us:

Someone who has accepted Jesus and been obedient in baptism takes communion to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. What does Luke 22:19 say?
