



FIELD GUIDE TO **FAITH**

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & KIDS TO TALK ABOUT
FOLLOWING JESUS & BAPTISM

FOR PARENTS

You're the Most Important Voice in This Conversation

Long before we get a say, you do. Whether your son or daughter is just starting to ask who God is, or they've told you they want to be baptized, the conversations that shape their faith mostly happen in your kitchen, your car, at bedtime, not just at church on Sunday. You don't need a seminary degree or a perfect answer for every question. You just need to show up: curious, honest, and close.

This guide is built to help you do exactly that. It's broken into two parts:

PART ONE

Leading Your Kid to Faith in Jesus

A simple way to talk through who God is, what sin is, what Jesus did about it, and how we respond.

PART TWO

Talking About Baptism

A follow-up conversation for when your child is ready to talk about what baptism means and what's next.

Every family's timeline looks different, and that's okay. Go at your kid's pace, not a schedule. These moments don't have to happen in one sitting.



"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

DEUTERONOMY 6:6–7, ESV

This is close to the heart of who we are as a church. We exist to **reach and raise authentic followers of Jesus**, and that starts at home, with you. If you have questions along the way, we're for you. Reach out to our Cove Kids team anytime through sheltercovelive.com/contact.

PART ONE

Leading Your Kid to Faith in Jesus

*"A simple guide to explain who God is, what sin is,
what Jesus did for us, and how we respond with faith."*



God Made It

WHO IS GOD, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

START WITH THIS

"When you hear that 'God is perfect,' what do you think that means?"

The Bible starts with a simple, massive claim: God made everything, and He made it good. Not just the world. He made *us*, on purpose, for relationship with Him.

Try this: Read Genesis 1 together and talk about what stands out. Ask your kid what part of creation makes them think God must be amazing. Then share your own answer, too.

At some point, your kid might notice the obvious problem: if God made everything perfect, why doesn't it feel that way now? Good. That's exactly where the conversation goes next.

We Broke It

WHAT IS SIN?

ASK YOUR KID

"Have you ever done something you knew was wrong, but did it anyway? Why do you think we do that?"

Sin isn't a checklist of "bad things." It's choosing our way over God's way. The Bible traces it back to the very first people, Adam and Eve, who did exactly that. That choice broke what had been a perfect relationship between people and God, and it's been broken ever since.

- Read Romans 3:23 together: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (ESV). Ask what that means for *us*, not just people "out there."
- Be honest about a time you had to admit you were wrong, without turning it into a lecture.
- Ask if your kid can name somewhere sin shows up in their own life.

Here's the good news: God didn't leave us there. That's where Jesus comes in.

Jesus Fixed It

WHAT DID JESUS DO ABOUT IT?

ASK

"If sin separates us from God, how do you think that gets fixed?"

We can't fix it ourselves, but God loves us too much to leave it broken. So He sent Jesus. Jesus lived the perfect life we couldn't, took the punishment our sin deserved on the cross, and rose from the dead, defeating sin and death for good.

- Read John 3:16–17 together and ask what it says about how much God loves us.
- Try this picture: two cliffs with a gap between them, us on one side, God on the other. What could bridge that gap? (*It's Jesus.*)
- Ask why they think Jesus was willing to do that for us.

This is where it stops being a Bible story and starts being personal, because now it's a question of whether we'll believe it and receive it.

We Receive It

HOW DO WE BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY?

ASK

"What do you think it means to follow Jesus?"

Following Jesus was never about being perfect. It's about trusting Him. It's believing He is who He says He is, and choosing to follow. Read Romans 10:9 together and ask what it says about how we're saved.

Try this: if someone handed you a gift and you never opened it, would it really be yours? Salvation works the same way: it's a gift we have to actually receive, not something we earn.

Ask if your kid has ever made that decision for themselves, and if not, what's still holding them back. If they're ready to say yes to Jesus, that's a huge moment. Pray with them, but let it be *their* decision. If they're not there yet, that's okay too. Keep the door open.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Living Out Their Faith

ASK

"What do you think it looks like to follow Jesus every day, not just on Sundays?"

Following Jesus isn't a one-time decision. It's a daily choice to keep growing. Encourage your kid to:

- Consider taking the next step: baptism
- Start reading the Bible: the Gospel of John is a great place to begin
- Pray like they'd talk to a friend, because they can
- Show up to church each weekend
- Practice telling other people what they believe

Most of all, keep the conversation going at home. It doesn't need to be a formal "devotional time" every night. Ask questions. Wonder out loud together. Be honest about your own faith, including the parts you're still figuring out.

This is the beginning of something, not the end of a conversation. Let your kid know you're always available to talk, wonder, and grow right alongside them.



"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

PROVERBS 22:6, ESV

PART TWO

Talking About Baptism

"A follow-up conversation to help you talk through what baptism means, assess your child's readiness, and take next steps."



1

Ask Questions

Before you explain anything, find out where your kid already is. A few good open-ended questions:

- What do you believe about Jesus?
- Why do you think baptism matters?
- What does it mean to you to follow Jesus?
- What questions do you still have?

2

Explain Baptism

Baptism is an outward sign of something that's already happened on the inside. Here's how to explain it simply:

- **It's a symbol.** Baptism pictures Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection: going under the water represents dying to our old way of living, and coming back up represents new life in Him.

Romans 6:4

- **It doesn't save us.** We're saved by faith in Jesus alone. Baptism doesn't add to that. It's a public declaration of what's already true in their heart.

Ephesians 2:8–9

- **It's obedience.** Jesus was baptized, and He asks His followers to do the same.

Matthew 3:13–17; Matthew 28:19–20

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See If They're Ready

Every kid's timeline is different. If they understand the gospel and have genuinely put their faith in Jesus, they're ready. If they're still unsure, that's okay. Keep talking, and don't rush it. If they have questions you don't feel equipped to answer, loop in a pastor or one of our Cove Kids leaders. That's exactly what we're here for.

Signs they might be ready:

- They can explain their faith in Jesus in their own words
- They recognize sin in their life and want to turn from it
- They understand baptism is obedience, not a requirement for salvation
- They want this for themselves, not because a friend is doing it, or because you asked

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Take the Next Step

If your kid is ready, here's what that looks like:

- Celebrate. This is a genuinely big moment in their faith.
- Let them tell their story. Help them practice putting into words why they want to be baptized.
- Sign up together at sheltercovelive.com/get-baptized, or talk to our Cove Kids team about what that looks like for a child.

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Keep Going

Following Jesus and getting baptized are the beginning, not the finish line. Keep walking with your kid as their faith keeps growing, and know that our Cove Kids team is walking with you, too.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

We'd Love to Help

Whether it's timing, what to expect, or anything else on your mind as a parent, we're happy to talk it through with you.

TALK TO OUR COVE KIDS TEAM

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