



CENTRAL

Biblical Teaching | Passionate Worship | Authentic Ministry

Dear Parent:

One of the core values of Central is that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path initiative exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this **Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ kit**, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you feel more confident whenever that wonderful opportunity comes.

Even though we make this kit available to parents of children ages five and above, few children are ready to fully understand the Gospel or make a faith decision at such a young age. Use this material to prepare yourself to be ready when your child expresses interest. We have included a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. *The Prepare To Lead Your Child To Christ* video and a booklet titled *God Wants You in His Family* will make that conversation easier when the time comes. You will also find two other items to use on that day:

- *My Faith Decision*: This card can be completed as a keepsake for your child's My Faith Box.
- *My Child's Faith Decision*: Use the URL on the enclosed card in order to receive a free Salvation & Baptism kit.

If your child is registered with Central, you will receive an email at select birthdays with information on how to get the free kit appropriate for his or her age. If you would like to confirm your family's registration or need more information about Faith Path, please visit centralbcs.org/faithpath or contact Chris Gary, Minister to Children, at cgary@centralbcs.org.

I hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Feel free to visit centralbcs.org/faithpath to learn more or to determine if your child is ready for other Faith Path steps.

In Christ,

Phillip Bethancourt
Senior Pastor



FAITH PATH

**PREPARE TO LEAD
YOUR CHILD TO
CHRIST**



CENTRAL

One of the greatest privileges you have as a parent is to help your child come to faith in Christ. Like many parents, you may not quite know how or when to approach one of the most exciting yet intimidating moments of parenthood. Some worry that they will not explain salvation properly. They might be tempted to just “leave it to the professionals” by relying on people at church or ministry events. That is understandable, but God has given you the most important and influential role when it comes to leading your child to Christ. This guide is designed to help you feel more comfortable about the process when that time comes.

STEP ONE: LAY A FOUNDATION

Your son or daughter grows in his or her understanding of God by developing a foundation; hearing stories from the Bible, learning scriptures, singing about Jesus, and so forth. Your child also learns by experiencing life in your home; watching your example, feeling your love, and learning right from wrong. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

STEP TWO: DISCERN READINESS

Do your best to discern when your child is mature enough to put the pieces together. Avoid the temptation to push for a decision before he or she is ready to truly grasp the Gospel. Your child may intellectually understand before being socially or spiritually ready. Young children are usually bonded to their parents in such a way that they want to please and do not have a full sense of a separate self. A child needs to understand that this is a personal decision and not just an opportunity to repeat rote answers.

STEP THREE: ASK QUESTIONS

If you feel your child might be ready, ask a few questions to help gauge his or her level of understanding. For example, read Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." Then ask questions like "What is sin?" and "How does your sin affect your relationship to God?" How they respond can help you sense when your child is ready to understand two important concepts:

- **JESUS AS SAVIOR:** The need for forgiveness and cleansing from sin which was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- **JESUS AS LORD:** The need to submit to God as "the boss" by making Jesus Christ the Lord of one's life.

STEP FOUR: GUIDE YOUR CHILD IN PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Romans 10:9-10 says, "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." If you sense your child has a basic understanding of what sin is as well as what it means to accept God's gift of salvation and His Lordship, then you can guide him or her to pray along those lines. Instead of quoting specific words for your child to repeat, it is best to prompt using his or her own words.

If after reading through this guide and viewing the *Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ* video you would like additional assistance, feel free to request an appointment for you and your child to meet with a pastor or Central staff member. If your child has become a believer, follow the link on the enclosed card to receive the free Salvation and Baptism kit. The My Faith Decision card can be used as a keepsake of this special day to store in your child's My Faith Box.

INTENTIONAL FAITH PATH PLAN

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Be prepared to talk with my child about his or her faith decision.
- _____

*Prayer is the next step on the Faith Path
and is recommended at age six.*

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

The Faith of a Child by Art Murray

FAITH @ Home

centralbcs.org
centralbcs.org/faithathome

UPDATED 5.27.2021

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FAITH PATH

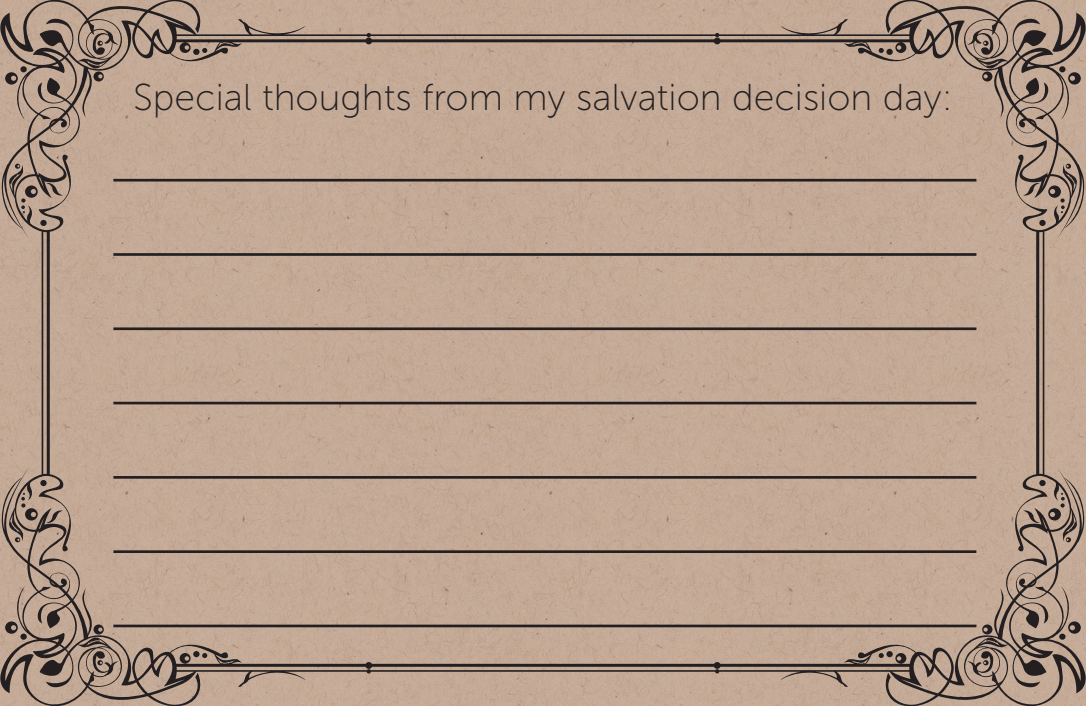
MY FAITH DECISION

I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and take control of my life.

Name

Date of My Decision

Parent or Guardian Signature



Special thoughts from my salvation decision day:



MY CHILD'S FAITH DECISION

Child's Name

Date of Decision

Child's Date of Birth

Please fill out this card and mail in the enclosed envelope or drop by Central Baptist Church.

*We have a special Salvation & Baptism kit we will get to you
once we receive information of your child's decision.*

(See reverse side)



Parent/Guardian Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Contact Number

Child's Date of Birth

(See reverse side)