

Connecting Kids to Jesus



God's big picture of redemption throughout the Bible is the prime feature of this course! A focus on Jesus is in every lesson. Connecting You to Jesus, in the introduction of every lesson, will familiarize you with how the characters and the action of the lesson's Bible story point to Jesus and God's plan for salvation. These same concepts, written in kid-friendly words, are also part of each lesson's Wrap-Up: Connecting Kids to Jesus will give you the words to say to help your students see God's big plan for the ages—and how they can each be a part of that amazing plan!

But the best part of connecting kids to Jesus is helping them join His family! It's a huge joy—and it's easy! Here's a quick breakdown:

Pray. Start by praying for each kid you teach—keep a list on your phone or computer, in your prayer journal or in your Bible. Invite God to prepare each child to understand and receive His good news.

Talk one-on-one. Because kids are easily influenced to follow the group, be wise in the way you invite kids to join God's family when you're in a group setting. Make it easy for kids who express interest to talk and pray with a prepared adult—but without pressure.

Be clear. Kids need to understand the gospel! So we need to use words and phrases kids understand. And don't assume that they do understand just because they can repeat something back to you. Avoid symbolic terms ("born again," "ask Jesus to come into your heart," "open your heart," etc.). Those can confuse these literal-minded thinkers. (For some great words, check out



the evangelism booklet *God Loves You!* It's available from Gospel Light.) Mark the Scriptures below. Read them aloud with an interested kid so that it's clear that joining God's family through repentance and faith in Jesus is God's big, beautiful idea!

Take Scripture Steps into God's Family

1. **God wants you to become His child. Why do you think God wants you in His family?** (See 1 John 3:1.)
2. **You and I and every person in the world have done wrong things. The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (See Romans 6:23.)
3. **God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sin. On the third day after Jesus died, what happened?** (See 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; 1 John 4:14.)
4. **Are you sorry for your sin? Tell God that you are. Do you believe Jesus died for your sin and then rose again? Tell Him that, too. If you tell God you are sorry for your sin and believe that Jesus died to take your sin away, what does the Bible say God will do?** (See 1 John 1:9.)
5. **The Bible says that when you believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He is alive today, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever!** (See John 1:12; 3:16.)

Another approach is to give each child in your class a copy of *God Loves You!* and read through the booklet together as a group. Ask, "What did you think about the booklet? What do you think is the most important part of the booklet? After reading the booklet, how would you describe Jesus?"

Celebrate! YES! You have permission to be excited when a kid joins God's family! Encourage those kids to tell their families. Give their names to your pastor. And don't leave any babies to fend for themselves! Make yourself available to help them grow, or find another adult who will help them. Use the discipling booklet *Following Jesus* (available from Gospel Light) as a simple, effective way to help kids think about ways to grow in God's family.

TIP

Some children, especially those from Christian homes, may be ready to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Others may need more time. Be sensitive to the various needs of your students. Ask God to prepare the children in your class to receive the good news about Jesus and to prepare you to communicate effectively with them.

