

Steps to Jesus

1. Understand the steps to salvation:
 - God is love (1 John 4:8). God loves me very much (Jer. 31:3). God loves everyone (John 3:16).
 - I am a sinner. Everyone does wrong and is a sinner, thus everyone needs salvation because sinners will die forever (Rom 3:23).
 - God sent Jesus to die so I wouldn't have to die forever (John 3:16). Then He rose again as my Saviour (1 Cor. 5:3, 4). When I receive Jesus, all my sins will be forgiven (Isa. 1:18; Ps. 51:7-11; 1 John 2:1, 2).
 - Salvation is a gift God gives me. I must personally ask Jesus to be my Saviour
 - (John 1:12). God hears me when I pray.
 - If I have accepted Jesus, I have become a new person, one who doesn't want to do wrong because I love Jesus and Jesus loves me (John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17).
 - I can be sure that I am saved when I have asked Jesus to be my Saviour (John 3:26; Heb. 13:5). Because I am sinful, I will still make mistakes. But if I confess my sins to Jesus, He will forgive me and remove my guilt completely (Jer. 31:34). God wants me to confess to others who are hurt by my actions (1 John 1:9) and make restitution to them (Luke 19:8), and then totally turn away from sin (John 8:11).
2. Read and discuss with an adult four of the following Bible stories on conversion/ salvation:
 - The Ethiopian converted (Acts 8:26-40)
 - Naaman washed clean (2 Kings 5)
 - Jesus loves children (Matt. 19:13-15)
 - The lost coin, sheep and son (Luke 15)
 - Zachacus (Luke 19:1-10)
 - Jailor converted (Acts 16:21-34)
3. Memorize John 3:16, Acts 16:31, and 1 John 1:9
4. Spend a regular quiet time with Jesus.
5. Make a personal choice to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Discuss your decision with a parent or club teacher.
 - Trace around your foot on paper and decorate any way you like, including the words of commitment: I _____(your name) have taken my first steps to Jesus today _____(date) with _____(adult witness' name).
 - Show the foot (commitment response to a club teacher, to receive a certificate and award patch.

Helps

1. Make these concepts as simple as needed for the child to grasp. The most important concept is that she/he recognize the nature of sin (wrong doing) and its consequences (eternal death), and then ask Jesus to forgive and be his/her Saviour.
2. These stories would make a great children's church sermons, club devotionals or family worship. Create wonder-inspiring moments for the child to understand God's great interest in his/her salvation.
3. Suggestion: illustrate the texts on a bookmark for their personal Bible or give to someone who wants to know more about Jesus.
4. Encourage a planned, regular time with God—can be with parent, family worship, club, or alone. Commitment is key, foundational, and needs to be continuing through a personal relationship growth.
5. Personal commitment in young children is often spontaneous and publicly shown. But this award encourages a personal decision made contemplatively at home with parents. However, when a home-inspired decision is not possible, a teacher or other caring individual may be the best one to nurture this first step as privately as possible. Warmly welcome the child as the newest member of the family of God, assuring them of God's unfailing love, acceptance, forgiveness, and great care. Recommended an extra project. Encourage the child to further respond in their own way—create a song, poem, painting, drawing, sculpture or express themselves with video, camera or computer. (But never force).

Resources

Recommended reading:

- "My God" curriculum information and teaching tips in the Adventurer manual.
- A Child's Steps to Jesus by L. P. Carlyle (a 12 books series teaching steps to Jesus)
- How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus by D. Habenicht.

Curriculum Connection:

1. The "Friend of Jesus" award provides excellent opportunities for active responses to this award's commitment to Jesus.
2. My God III, His Power in My Life requires spending a quiet time with Jesus.



Grade 4

New in 2004