

SALVATION PRAYER

A Guide for Parents

Dear Parents,

As you prepare to discuss salvation with your child, here are a few things to keep in mind:

PRAY!!! Pray that the Holy Spirit would prepare your child – that He would help you to present the message clearly – that He would give your child understanding – that HE would convince your child of the truth of HIS WORD.

Talk to your child individually. Don't rush through it. Use simple words your child will understand, and try to avoid phrases such as "invite Jesus into your heart" – after all who doesn't want that! But your child needs to understand and believe a few Biblical truths.

- **Man is a sinner and needs to be saved to go to Heaven.** (Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23)
- **Man's sin debt must be paid.** (Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23)
- **Christ paid for man's sin through His death and resurrection.** (Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23)
- **Man must receive God's free gift by faith in order to be saved.** (Romans 10:9-10, Romans 10:13)

Remember it doesn't have to be complicated. The words alone ARE NOT MAGIC. Jesus looks at the heart of repentance and anyone praying to Him in FAITH can be saved. An example, told by Jesus, is found in Luke 18:9-14.

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³**"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'** [emphasis mine]

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

I am in amazement of what Jesus says next in Luke 18:15-17

¹⁵People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

If you feel your child has an understanding and belief you can lead your child in the simple prayer:

Dear Jesus, I know that I sin, and I am sorry. Please forgive me. I know my sin deserves punishment. I believe you died on the cross and rose again to pay for my sin. Because of this I am forgiven. Thank you, Jesus that I will be with You forever. Amen.

Or you can lead them with statements and let them put the prayer in their own words like this: (This is a great way to make sure your child is ready and understands.)

- **Admit that you need to be forgiven for your sins.**
- **Tell Jesus you understand sin must be punished.**
- **Thank Jesus that He took your punishment on the cross and rose again.**
- **Thank Jesus for the gift of being with Him forever.**

Don't push your child to make a decision. Your child's salvation is a matter between the Holy Spirit and your child. The Holy Spirit must be the one who convinces your child of his or her sin, and need for salvation.

Be prepared at any time to talk with your child about salvation. At the right time, the Holy Spirit will speak to your child.

We at Cross Creek Community Church will be praying for you and your child.