

ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF BEING A PARENT IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK YOUR CHILD THROUGH HIS OR HER DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST; BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CAN ALSO BE ONE OF THE MOST DAUNTING TASKS! THE QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK YOURSELF ARE AS PRACTICAL AS THEY ARE UNNERVING. IS MY CHILD READY? WILL I SAY THE RIGHT THING? HOW WILL I KNOW MY CHILD UNDERSTANDS? WE WANT TO HELP. THE FAITH STARTER KIT IS A GUIDE TO HELP YOU DISCOVER WHERE YOUR CHILD IS IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S GRACE AND OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR US ON THE CROSS. FOR SOME OF YOUR CHILDREN, THIS EXPERIENCE WILL LEAD TO YOUR CHILD'S DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST. FOR OTHERS, THIS EXPERIENCE WILL LEAD TO YOUR CHILD'S DECISION TO RE-EVALUATE HIS OR HER FAITH IN JESUS. OTHERS MAY DISCOVER THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOT QUITE READY TO MAKE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST. NO MATTER WHICH CASE IS TRUE IN YOUR FAMILY, THESE CONVERSATIONS CAN SERVE AS STEPPING-STONES TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH AND WILL BE MOMENTS TO CHERISH AS YOU CONTINUE TO WALK IN FAITH, TRUSTING THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD. IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT THIS KIT WILL EQUIP YOU TO HAVE A FAMILY EXPERIENCE THAT WILL HAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR FAMILY. THIS KIT IS DESIGNED AS A BENEVOLENT EXPERIENCE – A TIME, WHICH IS SOLELY FOCUSED ON CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE THAT WILL ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO BE OPEN TO THE CONVERSATIONS YOU WILL HAVE TOGETHER. IT IS OUR GOAL THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL BE SET UP FOR SUCCESS IN HAVING DEEP AND IMPACTFUL CONVERSATIONS. WE REALIZE THOUGH THAT SOMETIMES NO MATTER HOW MUCH PREPARATION YOU PUT INTO SOMETHING, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO EXACTLY AS PLANNED. BE ENCOURAGED IN KNOWING THAT THIS IS OKAY! TRUST IN THE PROMPTING AND WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THE EXPERIENCE. ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF BEING A PARENT IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK YOUR CHILD THROUGH HIS OR HER DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST; BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CAN ALSO BE ONE OF THE MOST DAUNTING TASKS! THE QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK YOURSELF ARE AS PRACTICAL AS THEY ARE UNNERVING. IS MY CHILD READY? WILL I SAY THE RIGHT THING? HOW WILL I KNOW MY CHILD UNDERSTANDS?

The logo features the word "eKidz" in a white, rounded, lowercase font. A small white house icon is positioned above the letter "i". Below "eKidz" is the word "AT" in a smaller, white, uppercase font. Below "AT" is the word "HOME" in a large, white, bold, uppercase font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background with a faint, repeating pattern of the same text.

FAITH STARTER
KIT

LEADING YOUR
KIDS TO CHRIST

Parents,

One of the greatest joys of being a parent is the opportunity to walk your child through his or her decision to follow Christ; but we understand that this can also be one of the most daunting tasks! The questions you might ask yourself are as practical as they are unnerving. Is my child ready? Will I say the right thing? How will I know my child understands?

We want to help. The Faith Starter Kit is a guide to help you discover where your child is in their understanding of God's grace and of what Jesus did for us on the cross. For some of you, this experience will lead to your child's decision to place his or her faith in Jesus. Others may discover that their children are not quite ready to make the decision to follow Christ.

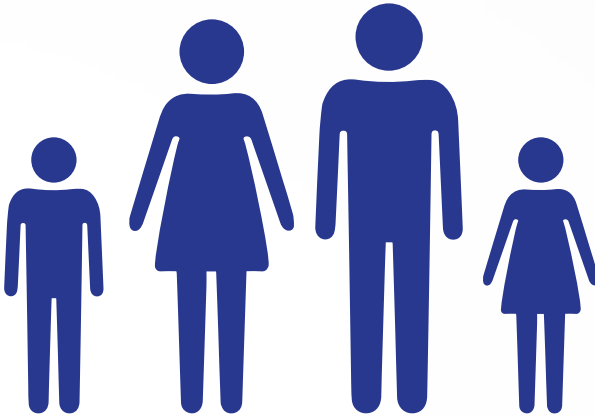
No matter which case is true in your family, these conversations can serve as stepping-stones to a greater understanding of faith and will be moments to cherish as you continue to walk in faith, trusting the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of your child. It is our prayer that this kit will equip you to have a family experience that will have a lasting impact on your child and your family.

This kit is designed as an entire experience – a time, which is solely focused on creating an atmosphere that will allow your child to be open to the conversations you will have together. It is our goal that your family will be set up for success in having deep and impactful conversations. We realize though that sometimes no matter how much preparation you put into something, there is no guarantee that everything will go exactly as planned. Be encouraged in knowing that this is okay! Trust in the prompting and working of the Holy Spirit throughout the experience.

We're excited to partner with you,

The eKidz Family Ministry Team

PREPARE YOUR EXPERIENCE



As a parent you likely spent countless hours preparing for the birth of your child: reading books, painting the nursery, praying over him or her and picking out the perfect outfit to wear home from the hospital.

Preparing for a spiritual birth in the life of your child is equally exciting and requires planning too. Use the steps below to help you prepare for your faith starter night.

PRAY

Spend time in prayer asking God to direct the conversation you'll have with your child and to open your child's heart to hear from Him. Pray specifically:

- That your child will be open to discussing their faith.
- That God will direct the conversations throughout the night.
- That no distractions will come up during the experience.

READ

Read through this entire kit and watch the videos included ahead of time to help you prepare for your night. You can also spend time praying and reading through the following scriptures as you prepare for your faith starter night.

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 JOHN 5:11-13

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 3:23-24

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

JOHN 5:24

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

JAMES 2:10

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

JOHN 20:31

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

DEUTERONOMY 11:18-19

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6:4

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

COLOSSIANS 3:21

CALENDAR

Choose a night that will be distraction free (i.e. everyone is home and there are no meetings or practices that will interfere,) and put this faith starter night on the calendar.

Start talking to your family in advance about the special family night that you are planning. When your kids are excited about what's coming, they are more likely to get engaged during the family night discussions and activities.

Mark the upcoming date on your family's calendar.

MEAL

Plan a meal that your child loves to eat, or loves to help cook. You could also choose a meal to get the entire family involved. There are three meal options below – feel free to use one of these or create your own.

Meal Option 1: Build Your Own Pizza Night

Make pizza dough together as a family and put out a variety of toppings, then allow everyone in the family to build individual pizzas. Play a “Breaking the Ice” game while the pizzas cook.

Meal Option 2: Baked Potato Bar

Put baked potato toppings out on the counter (cheese, chili, bacon bits, olives, etc....) and give everyone a baked potato. Allow them to create their own potato for tonight’s meal. Make it a competition to see who can create a potato masterpiece with the toppings you provided.

HINT: If you want to be able to prepare in advance, prep all of the toppings in Tupperware, wrap the potatoes in foil and then cook in the crockpot throughout the day.

Meal Option 3: Iron Chef Dinner

Divide your family into two teams and give each team boneless, skinless, chicken breasts in a baking dish. Pull out a variety of spices and veggies that could be used with the chicken and allow each team to make their own creation. Once the chicken is ready allow each family member to taste each of the chicken recipes and vote on a winner. For a healthy option, pair the dinner with rice and some fruit.

FINISH/POWER OFF

- **FINISH:** Take care of schoolwork or housework ahead of time to make this as relaxed and fun as possible.
- **POWER-OFF:** Put away all toys and games, phones and electronics. Let your children know that tonight the focus is only on them.

BREAKING THE ICE



EXPLANATION

During dinner find out how everyone's day was by playing a round of highs and lows, where everyone shares the highlights of his or her day and talks about the things that didn't go so well. Encourage everyone to be really specific.

During the rest of the meal, or towards the end, help break the ice before jumping into any serious conversations about salvation by playing one of the five "Dinner Games" provided.

GAMES

THE DINNER GUEST

Each person in your family chooses one person that they would like to invite for dinner. Then you go around the table and each person shares who they picked and why.

FINISH THE STORY

Remember telephone? This game is a spin on that old favorite. Choose one person to start the story and then go around the table and have each person add to it. Use a timer to help keep it going – you must keep talking until the timer runs out then it will be the next person’s turn. Allow the person who started the story to finish it! (You could always play a quick game of telephone too!)

PIG

This game uses dice (2-4), grab some from a game you have around the house. Each person takes a turn rolling the dice. The goal is to earn 100 points without rolling a 1. If you roll a 1 then your score is wiped out and you must start again. Choose a prize for the winner of the game. (Prizes could include a special dessert, their choice of a movie during the next family night, not having to help with the dishes for an entire day, etc.)

WHO AM I?

Each person chooses one famous person that they want to be and when it is his or her turn begins to act like that person. The rest of the family takes turns asking yes or no questions to try to guess who the famous person is. The person who guesses correctly goes next.

MY GRANDMOTHER’S TRUNK

Go around the table and have each person complete the following sentence using the letter ‘A.’ “In my grandmother’s trunk there is a ____.” Then go around the table again and have everyone fill in the sentence with a word that starts with the letter ‘B.’ Continue as long as you can.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

EXPLANATION

The biggest thing for you to remember is that this night and its conversations shouldn't feel forced. Find two dice from a game your family has to help you go through the following questions. These questions will provide you an opportunity to identify where your kids are now, in their faith journeys.

Explain to your kids in advance that these questions are about their faith and if they don't know the answer then they can pass and roll a different number. It's okay if kids roll the same number twice – ask the question again and see if you get the same answer. If they roll a number more than twice allow them to roll again.

QUESTIONS

2. What have you been learning at church this month?
3. What is your favorite thing about going to church?
4. What has God been teaching you?
5. What do you think sin is? Why is it a big deal?
6. Can you give me some examples of some sins?
7. If you had to describe who Jesus is what would you say?
8. What did Jesus do for us? Why was what Jesus did important?
9. What does it mean to say that you believe in Jesus or that you are a Christian?
10. What does it mean to be baptized? What happens when we are baptized?
11. Do you have any questions about what you are learning at church?
12. Do you have any questions about who God is and what He's done for us?

Hint: *Encourage your child to express his or her own ideas and allow time for thinking and responding. It is not unusual for a child to take up to a minute or even longer to answer a question they have not had to think about previously. If some time has passed and you sense they are struggling to put their thoughts into words, rephrase your question and see if that helps.*

EVALUATE

At the end of dinner and this conversation you should have a better knowledge of where your child is in their understanding of God's grace and what Jesus did for us on the cross. At this point you will need to determine if your child is ready for the next section of this kit or if you need to choose an alternate action for moving forward. Use the options below to help you make a transition to the next phase of your family night.

 **STOPPING POINT** 

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Pop Some Popcorn (My child is still processing and not ready to make a decision tonight): If you feel your child, or children are still processing what it means to accept Christ as their savior, encourage them to continue asking questions. Remind them that you are available and happy to talk to them about Jesus any time they want to. Invite them to do a fun family activity. If needed you can use the ideas below to assist you in planning the next activity to do as a family:

- Movie Night
- Board Games
- Puzzlemania (Divide into teams and see who can put a puzzle together the fastest. Winners get to pick dessert.)

Option 2- On the couch with Pastor (My child expressed interest in salvation): If you feel your child is ready, you can continue to the DVD portion of this kit. The DVD describes Jesus' love for us and explains, in a kid-friendly way, what salvation means. Below is an example of a sentence you can use to transition your family to the DVD portion of the kit.

Suggested Sentence: "I'm really impressed with all you know about Jesus and how much He loves us. I have a special video I want us to watch together right now. Let's leave the dishes for later – this is way more important!"

Note: If you choose Option 2 continue with the DVD. If you choose Option 1, have a great family night and start praying for the next opportunity God will give you to talk to your child about salvation. When you feel your child is ready, plan another eKidz@Home event using the Faith Starter Kit.

TALK IT OUT

The DVD portion of the Faith Starter Kit is designed to walk your child through the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the end of the DVD, music will play and you will be able to continue with the Follow-Up conversation.



STOPPING POINT



EXPLANATION

After the DVD concludes, let the music continue to play on the DVD. Ask your children what they thought about what was said in the video and how it made them feel. Once they respond, you should be able to determine if they are ready to ask Jesus to be their savior.

In order to transition out of the DVD you could say, "We have heard from Pastor Steven how God sent Jesus to die for us and forgive us of our sins. You also heard about how much God loves you and His plan for us to be saved. I want to give you an opportunity to make a decision to follow Christ."

OPTIONS

Option 1 (My children are still processing and have some questions about salvation): If you feel your child, or your children, are not ready to make this decision, that's okay. Remind them that they will continue to learn a lot about Jesus when they go to church and that someday they will be ready. Tell them that when they are ready to make that decision, you want to be able to pray with them. Spend time praying for your children, thanking God for them and asking that He would continue to work in their lives and to reveal Himself to them.

Once you have prayed spend time doing something together as a family. Some examples of activities you might do with your family include: watching a short movie (depending on the time,) playing a quick game of hide and seek, or making a fun dessert together.

Option 2 (My child is ready to place his or her faith in Christ): If you feel your child is ready to make the decision to follow Christ review the ABC's of Salvation with your child. Pray with him or her to receive Jesus; either by repeating the prayer after you, or having them pray by themselves. You can use the suggested prayer below to help guide the prayer time with your child.

Three Steps for Salvation:

A is for ADMIT. You admit that you are a sinner, you are not perfect, and that you have done things wrong. You admit that sin has separated you from God.

B is for BELIEVE. You believe that Jesus came to Earth, died for us, and rose again. You have to believe that God will forgive you of your sins.

C is for CHOOSE. You choose that you're going to live for God. That doesn't mean you'll be perfect everyday for the rest of your life, but it means you're committed to trying to please God by following what He tells us in the Bible and by spending time with Him.

Suggested Prayer:

Dear God,

I know that I sin and do things that you do not want me to do. I believe that Jesus is your son, that He died on the cross to save me, that You raised Him from the dead, and that He lives with You now. Right now I'm asking you to forgive me of my sins and to come into my life. I want You to help me make good choices in my life and for others to know who You are. Thank you for loving me so much.

Amen.

If you prayed this prayer with your child CONGRATULATIONS! The Bible says that the angels in heaven are rejoicing! Affirm to your child that once they pray that prayer all of their sins are forgiven and God will have a special place in heaven for them when they die! Mark this day on your calendar as a spiritual birthday for your child.

CELEBRATE

The day that you become a new believer in Jesus is a BIG deal! We want kids to understand what an incredible decision they have made. Below are a few ideas for how you can make this a memorable experience for your child and your family. Feel free to use one of these ideas or create your own!



- Take pictures! After Jesus healed people in the Bible and they believed in Him they went around sharing the good news of Christ with everyone they met. Send out a tweet telling the world about your child's decision to follow Christ. Tweet to @eKidz so that we can celebrate with you and your family!



- Throw a spiritual birthday party for your child. Have cupcakes, candles and ice cream ready. It's okay to plan this for the following evening or to make a special spiritual birthday breakfast for your child the next morning.



- Have a special gift to give your child once they accept Christ as their savior; such as a new Bible or bookmark to use in their Bible. Check out your local Christian bookstore (such as Lifeway) for inexpensive gifts that will help your child remember this special day. Purchase them ahead of time and hold onto them until this day.



- Make salvation bracelets as a family. Kids can wear these as a reminder of what Jesus did for them and of their decision to follow him. (You can find these online or at a Christian bookstore.)

Next Steps:

1. Go to church. Have your child tell his or her small group leader about their decision to follow Christ!
2. Learn (grow as a family) by spending time together, reading the Bible
3. Continue having eKidz@Home Nights as a family
4. Purchase an age-appropriate Bible for your child

Dear Parents,

We are so excited that you have chosen to use this resource with your family.

We realize God has placed you in the driver's seat when it comes to the spiritual growth of your child. We want to encourage you to take your child's development in their relationship with Christ as your primary responsibility.

The Family Ministry at Elevation Church wants to partner with you in every way that we can. We consider it an honor to invest in your kids each weekend.

Make sure to check out the eKidz site for more tools and ideas to empower your family:

WWW.ELEVATIONEKIDZ.COM

We can't wait to hear how God moves in and through your family.

Frank Bealer
Family Pastor

INCLUDED IN THIS KIT:

This kit includes five different sections that will take you and your family through the Faith Starter Night. There are opportunities throughout titled:



If at any point, you feel your child is not yet ready for the next steps, these stopping points provide an opportunity to continue to have a great family night; just not through the Faith Starter Kit.

Don't be discouraged if you don't make it through each section. Trust the direction of the Holy Spirit and remember that everyone must make the choice to follow Christ in his or her own time. Continue modeling Christ in your life, bringing your children to eKidz, and giving them opportunities to ask questions. When you feel they are ready use this kit again to plan another experience for your family.

Five Sections of the Faith Starter Kit

- Preparing Your Experience
- Breaking the Ice
- Where are they now?
- Talk It Out
- Celebrate Together

