

# Leading a Child to Christ

Not only are you working with young children who may not have a personal relationship with Jesus, but Hope is a seeker-friendly church; so many of the children who come through our doors may not be familiar with church or Christianity. We need to be prepared to introduce the gospel to children as well as lead those who are already believers. Below are some tips on how to do both.

Majority of Christians choose not to share their faith because of:

- Fear of being rejected
- Fear of not being able to answer questions
- Fear of being offensive
- Fear of being ridiculed

## Different “Kinds” of Unbelievers

	Cynic	Skeptic	Spectator	Seeker
Description	Cynics are usually negative and hostile. Unwilling to change their mind on the subject.	Skeptics are generally doubtful—either that what you say is true or that it will work for them.	Spectators don't like to participate but might be interested in what you have to say.	Seekers are definitely interested. They want to know the truth and how to apply it to their life.
Possible Approach	Ask them some questions to find out why they're negative and hostile.	Ask questions to find the root of their doubts. Were they misinformed, have questions or are there other issues?	Ask questions to get them thinking about life. Things like why they're here and what's their purpose for living?	Ask questions to find out what is stopping them from taking the next step in becoming a Christian.
Questions you could ask them	"You don't seem too positive toward God, what happened to you that makes you feel that way?"	"I can tell you doubt what I believe. I'd love to talk about any questions or doubts you may have. I may not have all the answers, but I'll do my best!"	"Do you ever think about what life is all about? Sometimes I wonder why God has us here. How about you, what are your thoughts on God?"	"What do you think keeps you from becoming a Christian? I'd love to help you move past that when you're ready!"
How to respond to them	Listen attentively without cutting them off! Help them look at their past circumstances in a new way.	Listen attentively without cutting them off! Then, try to answer their questions or help them find material that will show the truth about Christianity.	Listen attentively without cutting them off! Keep talking to them about God, but also tell them how a relationship with God has changed your life.	Listen attentively without cutting them off! Then, answer their questions and help them overcome their barriers. Help them take the steps toward becoming a Christian.

## Share YOUR Story

Here is a quick look at an “outline” you can follow when you tell your story:

- What was your life like before you met Christ?
- How did you come to know Christ? What were the events surrounding that decision?
- What’s your life like now that you’re a follower of Christ?

Here are a few tips about telling your story:

1. Don’t share your story until you’ve heard about their spiritual background.
2. Tell them what the biggest difference in your life is now that you became a Christian.
3. When you tell them how you became a follower of Christ, make it simple enough for them to be able to do it on their own.
4. When you get done, give them a chance to respond to what you just told them.
5. They may want to know how to do the same thing in their life, or they may want to know if God has a similar plan for them.
6. When you tell your story, don’t use “church words”. Say it in terms that you would be able to understand if you didn’t go to church. A good rule to follow is: don’t use words that you wouldn’t think they would understand.
7. Keep it short!

## Questions from Kids

Below are a few questions that your kids might ask you when you share your story. Take a few minutes to write down your answers to each.

- What does it mean to you to be a Christian, besides reading your Bible and praying?
- How do you know if someone is a Christian? What makes them different?
- What difference will I make if I become a Christian?
- Why can't you believe what you believe and let me believe what I believe? If we just believe in something, isn't that what matters?
- Why is Christianity right and all the other religions wrong? Isn't that narrow-minded?

## Helping Children Know Christ Personally

After sharing the truth with a child, he or she might want to hear more about Christ so that he or she can make a decision of faith in Jesus.

There are lots of ways to share the truth about Jesus; here are a few suggestions:

### **John 3:16 (17)**

The famous verse says it all:

"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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

The Bible makes it very clear: whoever BELIEVES in the Son of God is saved and BELONGS in the family of God.

### **1 Corinthians 15:2-4**

This passage gives us some more details about what a person ought to believe in order to be saved:

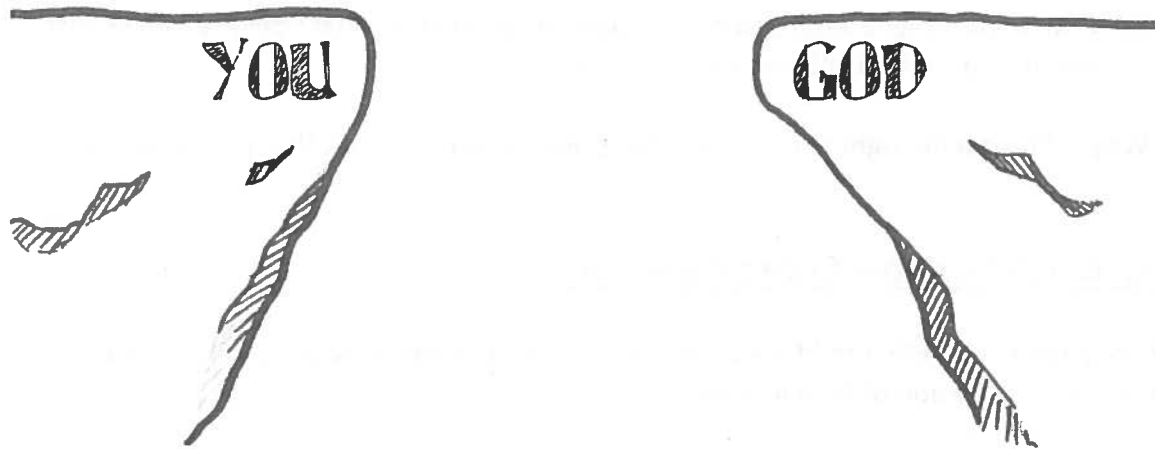
"By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."

Faith in Christ means believing that: (a) Christ died (and was buried) for our sins, and (b) he was raised from the dead.

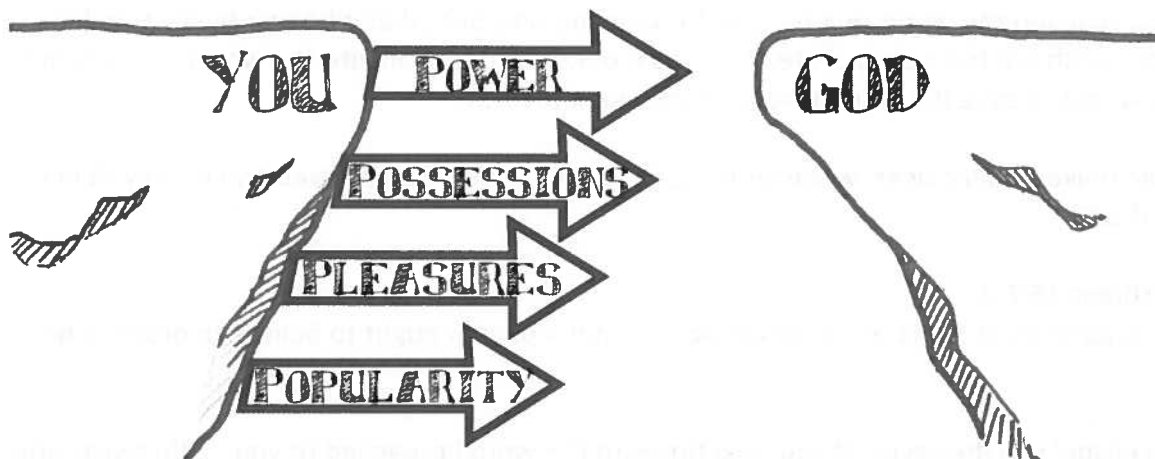
## The Bridge Illustration

The Bridge is a visual illustration of our need for God and how God has met that need. This is a tool that you can draw on a napkin, a piece of paper or on a white board.

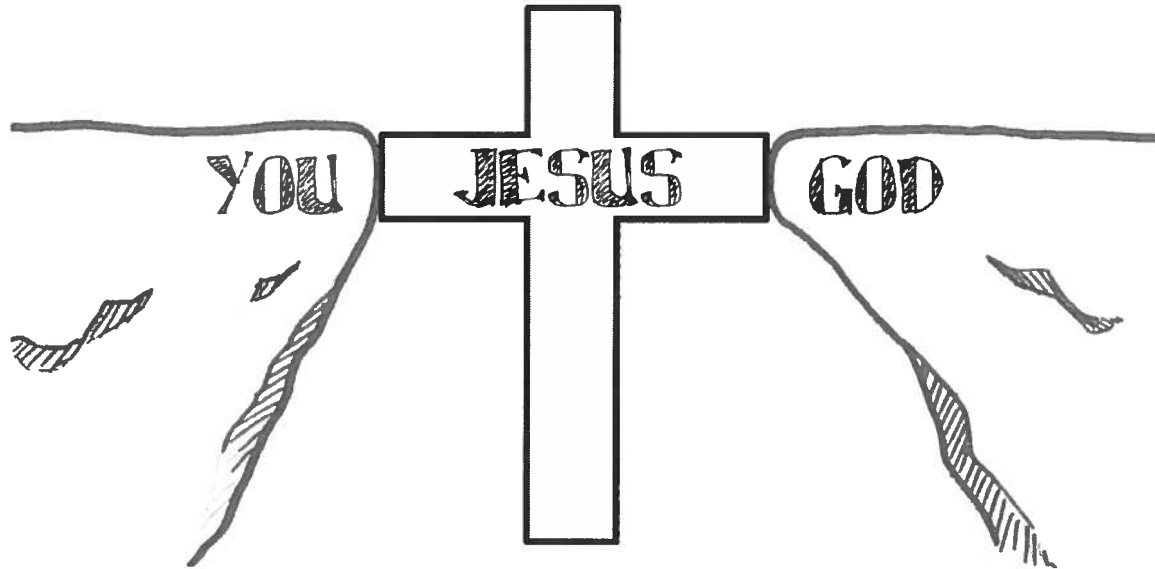
God wants to have a relationship with us!  
However, sin separates us from God.



Most of us are aware of the BIG GAP that's between God and us. So, we try to fill that void with all kinds of different things. No matter what we try, it always falls short.



Because we've sinned, there has to be a payment for our sin. Just like when someone commits a crime, there has to be a payment for what they've done wrong. The payment for sin is death. But, God already paid in full and built a bridge for us to be able to have a relationship with Him. He did that by sending Jesus to Earth, as a perfect human, to die on the cross. That was the payment.



## Eternal Life

Romans 3:23 - All have sinned

Romans 5:8 - All sinned; Christ died

Romans 6:23 - Wages = Death

Ephesians 2:8-9 - By grace, not works

Hebrews 9:27 - Judgment after Death

John 1:12 - Children of God

One last thing: it's not enough to know that Jesus paid the price for our sin. We have to take action by admitting that we've sinned and by asking God for forgiveness and leadership in our lives.

Wrap up the illustration by asking the child where they see their life in this illustration.

As you talk with your small group kids about Jesus, you may come across some genuine fears and legitimate questions about becoming a Christian. There is a section in your reference guide outlining how to address some of these fears and questions. And of course, always feel free to contact your KidCity staff coordinator.

