

HELPING YOUR CHILD SAY YES TO JESUS WHEREVER YOU ARE

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Memory Verse: About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. Acts 16:25



Have you ever tried to explain what it means to accept Jesus to your child, but you weren't sure where to start? The story of Paul and Silas in Acts 16:16-40 gives us a powerful place to begin. Thrown into jail after helping a slave girl, Paul and Silas responded not with fear, but with prayer and praise. Their trust in the Holy Spirit led to freedom, not just from jail, but for a jailer and his whole family, who came to believe in Jesus. It's a story showing us faith doesn't depend on our location, mood, or circumstances. It begins with a conversation and an invitation.

Here are a few ways to help your child understand that they can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and what it means to truly belong to Jesus.

1. Explain It Simply: What Does It Mean to Accept Jesus?

- You might say, "Accepting Jesus means telling him that you believe he's God's Son, that he died for you, and asking him to be your forever friend."
- Keep it short and honest. Kids don't need a theological lecture. They need language they can trust and repeat. Encourage their questions and don't rush to fill the silence.

2. Make Room for the Ask

- Children may want to accept Jesus, but they might not know how. Let them know they can say a prayer like:

"Jesus, I believe you died on the cross for my sins and rose again. Please be with me. I want to follow you."

- You can offer to pray together. Or you might hear your kids whisper it themselves later, and that's just as beautiful.

3. Practice "Anywhere Prayers" as a Family

- Pray in unexpected places: on a walk, in the car, before a test, or when someone's upset.
- When your child sees you praying in everyday moments, they learn that God is present in all of life, not just at bedtime or mealtime.

I remember walking past my daughter's room one afternoon and hearing her singing a worship song while building with Lego. It wasn't part of a devotion time or anything I had planned. It just bubbled up in her play. That's the kind of faith we want to model: faith that's present in ordinary moments, honest, unforced, and open to the Spirit's quiet work, just like Paul and Silas.

There's no place too dark or too ordinary for God to speak. This week, why not try praying with your child in a space you don't usually think of as "holy"? Maybe the backyard, the hallway, or even the grocery store line? Let that moment remind both of you that Jesus is already there and ready to listen.

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