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# Spiritual Growth: Sharing Christ

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## The Most Important Gift

The most important gift you can give your children is the invitation to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ. This happens throughout the years you spend raising your children, and it happens in three ways:

1. Through the living example you demonstrate to your children of what it means to follow Jesus Christ.
2. Through the Christian education you provide your children, both at home and at church.
3. Through a specific invitation; a time when you ask your children specifically if they would like to ask Jesus to come into their hearts.

## The Invitation

Deciding to follow Jesus Christ is an extremely personal decision, and it isn't one we can make *for* our children. However, it is important that we intentionally share with our children some specifics about what the Lord has done for them and what He offers.

- *You were created by God.* (See Colossians 1:16, Psalm 139:13, Psalm 100:3)
- *God has told us in His Word how He wants us to live our lives.* (See Deuteronomy 5:6-21, Mark 12:28-31)
- *Each one of us has sinned and done what is wrong in God's sight.* (See Romans 3:23)
- *Because of that sin, we are separated from God.* (See Isaiah 59:2)
- *The penalty of sin is death.* (See Romans 6:23)
- *Jesus paid the penalty on our behalf when He died on the cross.* (See Romans 5:8, Isaiah 53:5, John 3:16)
- *It is faith in Jesus Christ that brings us salvation!* (See Romans 10:9-10, 13, John 3:18)

## How to Share Your Faith

You do this every day, in ways that are too numerous to count! Let's look at just a few...

### *Through your Choices*

- Praying together before meals
- Praying with your children at bedtime
- Attending church regularly
- Reading The Bible regularly

### *Through your Words*

- "I forgive you."
- "This is something that I need to pray about. I'll have to get back to you with an answer."
- "Son, what's coming up this week? How can I pray for you?"
- "God provides."

### *Through your Actions*

- Sitting with loved ones as they experience a crisis
- Serving others
- Sharing your gifts
- Your willingness to give of your time for others

## "It Takes a Village"

If you are not already involved in a local church, I urge you to begin looking for one today. Ask your friends and neighbors what they most love about the places where they worship. Their responses can help guide you to a place of worship that will meet your needs. It is crucial that your children hear God's message not only from you, but from other important people in their lives. In addition, your local church is a place where you can find people who, like you, want to grow in their faith, share one another's burdens, and face the challenges of this life together as a community.