

Helping Children Follow Jesus

At Roar VBS, children don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action through meaningful learning and fun.

As they travel from station to station, they go deeper into their understanding of God and God's Son, Jesus. Most important, children learn that because Jesus loves us, he came to die for our sins and make a way for us to live with God forever.

You'll notice that there's no set time for children to make a faith commitment at Vacation Bible School. We feel that Roar helps children build relationships—with other children, with adults, and with Jesus. And since each child is at a different point in his or her relationship with Jesus, programming a time for commitment may be confusing to some children.

If you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, give this simple explanation and encourage the child to read the verses with you from his or her own Bible:

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these responses: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. If you feel uncomfortable about talking to the child, refer him or her to your church's pastor, Kids Minister or another leader who will help the child understand what it means to believe in Jesus.

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s) and follow up with their family about the next steps of making a decision.