

# When a Child Says YES to Jesus

THE GOSPEL TOOLKIT

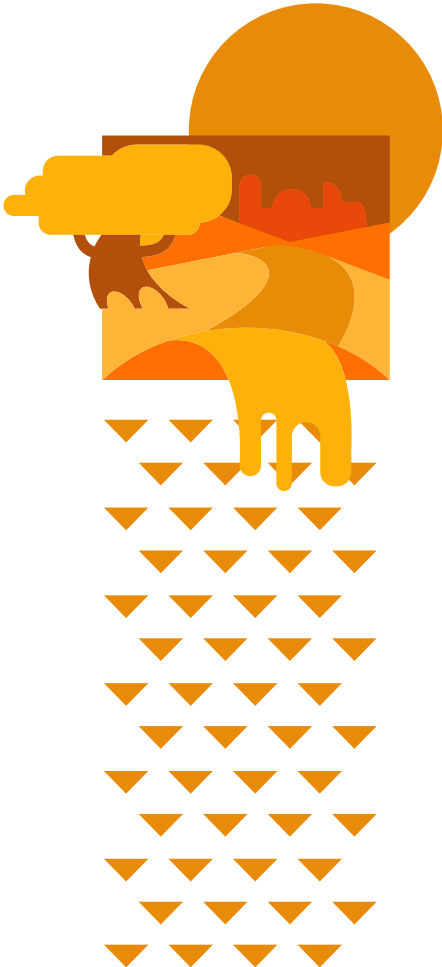
Awana®



**There will come a time when a child in your small group or ministry chooses to say yes to becoming a disciple of Jesus! So many factors have led to this child's decision, but you are the one who has the privilege of walking them through this transformational moment in their life.**

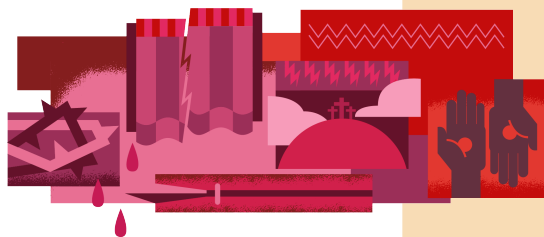
While it might feel a bit nerve-wracking, this is a reason to celebrate another child of God choosing His plan for redemption and restoration! As you lead this child to their next steps, here are a few things to include:

- ① Affirm the child's decision with the contagious joy of the Lord. Remind them that God uniquely designed them to glorify Him; accepting His free gift of salvation and grace is reason to celebrate!
- ② Ask them if there is a specific way they want to tell the Lord of their decision to follow after Him and accept His plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus. Some children may confidently move into communicating their thoughts and decision with the Lord. As a bystander of this beautiful moment, simply be present with your heart and mind turned to the Lord alongside the child.
- ③ If the child isn't sure what to do, ask if they would like to pray with you. Explain to them God needs nothing from us; He's already done the work and is waiting for us to accept His gift of salvation. Encourage them to share the ways they see their sin and then offer that sin to God, knowing He's already paid the punishment for it. If someone gave you a gift you would want to say, "thank you!" Take this time to thank God for what He has done.
- ④ After the child spends time talking to God, ask them how they are feeling and what they are thinking. Give them opportunity to share those emotions and thoughts with God, too.
- ⑤ Take a few minutes to speak words of identity over them as a child of God. Tell them exactly who God says they are.
  - You are loved. (Ephesians 2:4)
  - You are forgiven. (Colossians 3:13)
  - You are a child of God. (1 John 3:1)
  - You are made in the image of God and reflect His nature. (Galatians 5:22)



- 6 Give them a Bible! In their new Bible, ask if they would like to mark any meaningful verses or passages they want to remember.
- 7 Ask the child how they would like to share their decision with their parents! You can give them opportunity to record a video, write a letter or think through what they want to say as they share this exciting news!

- 8 Tell your children’s director about this child’s decision of faith so they can follow up with the child and the child’s family to continue walking through your church’s discipleship pathway.



**WHEN HE WAS HERE ON EARTH, JESUS REMINDED HIS DISCIPLES AND THE CROWD THAT GATHERED OF JUST HOW IMPORTANT CHILDREN ARE TO HIS KINGDOM:**

*And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:2-4)*

You are aiding in the greatest work on the face of this planet — helping a child know the life transforming truth of the Gospel and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. There is so much for us to learn about God through the eyes of children. As you lead a child to Christ, may you remember your own salvation and the work God has done in your life, too!