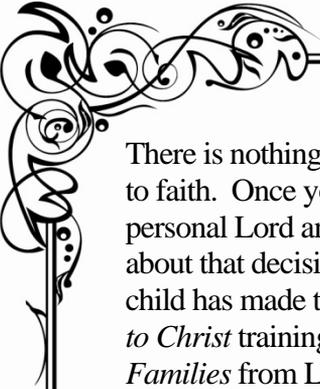


**FAITH
PATH**

**Salvation &
Baptism**

Celebrate Your Child's Faith Decision

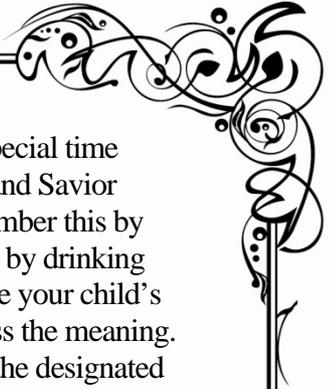


There is nothing more exciting for a parent than guiding a child to faith. Once your child has accepted Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior it is time to help them tell others about that decision through baptism. If you are not sure if your child has made this decision yet, please request *Leading a Child to Christ* training pack and *Kids Faith: Faith Conversations for Families* from Lezah Maitland at lezah.maitland@fbcallen.org

New Christian Class: Sign up for the New Christian Class, a Sunday morning three hour class that offers children a solid understanding of the basics of the Christian faith. This class happens 2-3 times a year. A postcard and email with information about the class will be sent to parents of new Christians.

Baptism: Baptism is a public announcement of belief and a visible picture of an inward transformation. All who experience God's saving grace and respond through faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins should be baptized in obedience to Jesus' commands as recorded in the New Testament and modeled in the early church. Explain to your child that being baptized does not make him or her a Christian. There is nothing magical about the water. What makes someone a Christian is the decision to ask Jesus Christ to forgive his or her sins and take control of his or her life. Your child might be nervous about getting baptized. Assure your child that he or she will just be dipped under the water for a couple of seconds and that this is an exciting time. If you have a *My Faith Box*, be sure to fill out the designated page in the Milestones section after your child is baptized. You can schedule your child's baptism by visiting the Connection Center in the rotunda or contacting Pastor Chad Selph at chad.selph@fbcallen.org or Lezah Maitland at lezah.maitland@fbcallen.org.





The Lord's Supper: The Lord's Supper is a special time when those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior remember that He died for their sins. We remember this by eating bread, which represents Jesus' body, and by drinking juice, which symbolizes Jesus' blood. Celebrate your child's first participation in The Lord's Supper. Discuss the meaning. If you have a *My Faith Box*, be sure to fill out the designated page in the Milestones section noting his or her first Lord's Supper.

Symbols and Celebrations: Consider giving your child something to signify the decision he or she has made. This can be a cross, a new Bible, a Bible study or a hand written note in the front of a blank journal. As children get older they sometimes question their earlier faith decision. Help your child feel secure by providing a firm foundation. If you have a *My Faith Box*, write down the date and other special memories from the day he or she accepted Christ on the designated page in the Milestones section. Use the *Spiritual Birthdays* card included with this kit for ideas on how to celebrate your child's spiritual birthday. Take time to talk about what he or she is learning. Allow your child to ask questions and talk through new areas of spiritual growth. Pray for the upcoming year in his or her journey. This will also give you great insight into where some extra help or attention is needed and how you can pray more specifically for your child.

Help your child begin to walk with Jesus: Show your child what a Christian life looks like. Teach your child how to pray and coach him or her on how to read the Bible. Salvation and baptism are only the beginning of a wonderful journey with God. Now that you have helped your child take these exciting first steps, you have the opportunity and responsibility to disciple him or her into a fully developing follower of Christ.



Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily with and for my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Schedule my child's baptism and celebration.
- _____

Recommended Resources

My Faith Box by Lydia Randall from myfaithbox.org
Baptism: Bible Study for Kids by Richard E. Todd
Communion: Bible Study for Kids by Richard E. Todd
Family Night Tool Chest: Basic Christian Beliefs from
heritagebuilderspublishing.com

Pastor Chad Selph

Senior Pastor

chad.selph@fbcallen.org

Lezah Maitland

Minister of Children

lezah.maitland@fbcallen.org



MY FAITH DECISION

I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and take control of my life.

Name

Date of My Decision

Parent or Guardian Signature

Special thoughts from my salvation decision day...



NOW THAT I'M A CHRISTIAN

Name

Date I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior

***You always show me the
path that leads to life.
You will fill me with joy
when I am with you.
Acts 2:28***

NOW THAT I'M A CHRISTIAN

Congratulations! Here are some simple next steps:

1. GET BAPTIZED

- **What:** Baptism tells the story of what Christ has done for you.
- **How:** Learn more and schedule your baptism.

2. LEARN ABOUT GOD

- **What:** Spend time with other believers.
- **How:** Get involved at church to grow in your faith.

3. LISTEN TO GOD

- **What:** Read the Bible as God's letter to you.
- **How:** Start by reading a few verses each day starting with the book of John.

4. TALK TO GOD

- **What:** Prayer is talking to God as your leader and new best friend.
 - **How:** Fill in the following when you talk to God...
 - Thank you for _____
 - I'm sorry for _____
 - I love you because _____
 - Please help _____
by _____
-

Now that you are a Christian, keep growing and have a blast on the exciting faith path adventure God has for you!



Spiritual Birthdays

Best Use

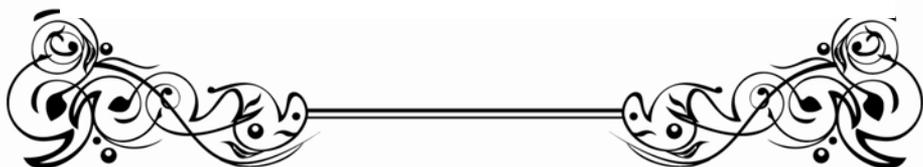
As a guide to celebrate a child's spiritual birthday

Nutritional Value

Reinforcing the child's faith decision annually

Importance

Celebrating your child's faith decision every year can help them establish a firm foundation to prevent unnecessary doubts. This is especially important if your child came to faith at a young age. Many children raised in church begin to question the authenticity of their faith when they get older simply because they can't recall the specific date or some dramatic event surrounding their moment of conversion. An annual "spiritual birthday party" can reinforce your child's faith by reminding him or her that our salvation is firmly rooted in what Jesus Christ did for us.



SCHEDULE

Decide what date you will celebrate your child's spiritual birthday as a fun tradition that also reinforces his or her faith decision. Consider any of the following options...

- The actual date your child trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- If you don't know the actual date using your child's baptism anniversary would be the next best option.
- If you don't have a record either date then you might consider celebrating the day after your child's physical birthday to highlight his or her "born again" day.

CELEBRATE

Just like for a physical birthday party you may choose to invite guests to join the celebration, perhaps nearby relatives, close family friends or a teacher from church. Ask your child who they would like you to invite. Including the child's friends might be a wonderful opportunity for your child to explain what a spiritual birthday is all about. Consider making his or her favorite meal, baking a cake, serving cupcakes or some other treat that will make the occasion special. Include a candle for each year since your child was born again. You might also give your child a gift that will help them grow spiritually during the coming year such as an age appropriate Bible, a devotional book or an iTunes gift card to download Christian music.

REINFORCE

Take time to talk about what Christ did for your child and what happened when he or she decided to believe. Some specific suggestions include...

- Help your child write a letter to God thanking Him for what Jesus did on the cross, for things that happened during the past year, etc. Write your own letter to the child encouraging his or her walk with God, mentioning how you've seen growth this year, etc. Put the letters in your child's *My Faith Box* so they will have them as a treasured keepsake later.
- Invite your child to read John 3:3 aloud and explain that you are celebrating the child's "born again" birthday. Then read 2 Corinthians 5:17 together and ask the child how Jesus Christ made them a new person when they believed. (i.e., He saved me from sin, He gave me eternal life, He gave the Holy Spirit to guide me, etc.)
- Pray for your child, asking God to help them continue to grow a strong faith in the coming year.