



**FAITHFUL
KIDS**



Kids' Theology Handbook

**HOW TO TALK TO LITTLE KIDS ABOUT
THE BIG THINGS OF GOD**

Phylcia Masonheimer

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Introduction

We all think we know how to explain Jesus. That is, until our kids ask us for specifics. Then suddenly all our best explanations fly out the window. We find ourselves grasping at straws, wondering “How do I explain the Trinity to a four year old without becoming a heretic?”

As a theology teacher and mom of three kids under 8, I understand this difficulty. I have the advantage of a religion degree to assist me when teaching my kids—something many people do not have! But while helpful, it is not necessary. Not everyone will go to seminary, but every parent can still learn how to explain God’s character and law to their children. This is, after all, the command of Scripture.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that

I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

—Deuteronomy 6:5-9

I want my kids to have a foundation of faith for the future. Researcher George Barna found that in “most cases people’s spiritual beliefs are irrevocably formed when they are pre-teens” and that “a majority of Americans make a lasting determination about the personal significance of Christ’s death and resurrection by age 12.” I want my kids to know the beauty, truth, and goodness of the gospel. What they do with it is between them and God, but my responsibility is to make sure they know the truth!

With that in mind, the pages of this resource contain scripts to help you explain the fundamentals of Christianity to your little ones. They are not prescriptive! Use them as a jumping off point and curate them to your own family and way of speaking. Rehearse them as you

“come and go and sit and rise.” I hope they are helpful to you in those vital conversations about our very good, very big God.

*A note to parents: I wrote these for kids ages 4-8. For older kids, either expand the language to communicate at their level or consider grabbing *Theology Basics* from our shop and working through it with them (or reading it yourself and using it as a jumping off point for your own conversations). Most of all, remember that these scripts should be part of an ongoing conversation with your kids. They do not have to understand it all at once (they won't!). Instead you are laying a foundation for them to process, to come back to, and to talk about with God.*

Table of Contents

WHY CAN'T I SEE GOD — 15

HOW CAN GOD BE THREE IN ONE? — 16

IS GOD EVERYWHERE? —17

WILL GOD EVER GO AWAY? — 18

DOES GOD CAUSE EVERYTHING? — 19 & 20

GOD ISN'T FAIR. — 21

**HOW DID MARY HAVE JESUS IF JESUS IS
GOD? — 22**

WAS JESUS A KID LIKE ME? — 23

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO? — 24

WHY DO I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT? — 25

**IS THE HOLY SPIRIT THE SAME AS
JESUS? — 26**

**WHY IS IT HARD TO DO THE RIGHT
THING? — 27**

WHAT IS SIN? — 28

WHAT IS ORIGINAL SIN? — 29

DID GOD MAKE ADAM AND EVE SIN? — 30

**WHY DOES GOD GET TO TELL ME WHAT
TO DO? — 31**

HOW DID GOD CREATE THE WORLD? — 32

**WHY DID GOD CREATE PEOPLE IF THEY COULD
MAKE BAD CHOICES? — 33**

WHY DOES GOD LOVE ME? — 34

WHAT ARE ANGELS — 35

WHO IS SATAN? — 36

WHAT IS HELL? — 37 & 38

WHY DO I NEED TO BE SAVED? — 39

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM SAVED? — 40

WHY DO I HAVE TO OBEY GOD? — 41

WHY DO I HAVE TO PRAY? — 42

WHY DO WE GO TO CHURCH? — 43

I THINK CHURCH IS BORING! — 44

**WHAT IS HEAVEN? I DON'T WANT
TO GO! — 45**

WHAT WILL WE DO IN HEAVEN? — 46

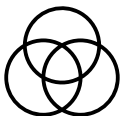
WILL I SEE MY PETS IN HEAVEN? — 47

WHEN WILL JESUS COME BACK? — 48



WHY CAN'T I SEE GOD?

God is a spirit. You have a spirit and so do I! It is the most special part of who you are—but you cannot see it. God's spirit is alive, leading and loving us, and He speaks to our hearts and minds through the Bible. We do not see Him right now, but someday we will, when our spirits are gathered together in heaven. It takes faith to follow God without seeing Him!



HOW CAN GOD BE THREE IN ONE?

God is one, but he exists in three distinct persons with three different roles, or jobs! Father God sent Jesus to earth in a human body like ours. Jesus was God, but was also sent by God. Then when Jesus returned to heaven, He left us the Holy Spirit to continue doing His work. The Spirit is also God—He just has a unique job to do! God is one, but with three different roles.



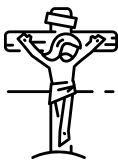
IS GOD EVERYWHERE?

We cannot see God, but we know He exists because of the creation around us. Look at the stars! Look at how the earth has to be right where it is in space! Look at the design of our bodies! God made all of this for us to enjoy. God can do that because He is not stuck in one place. He is everywhere, all the time. This means you can always pray to Him—because He never leaves you!



WILL GOD EVER GO AWAY?

God has always been alive, and He always will be alive. In the Bible, God says that He is the Beginning and the End. We get to be part of the big story He is telling. It is an adventure that began long before you were born, I was born, or even your grandparents were born! As far back in history as you go, God was always there, and He will never leave us.



DOES GOD CAUSE EVERYTHING?

Reformed View: God created everything and takes care of everything—He always has, since the very beginning! He is in charge of everything, and His plan always happens. You can trust that God will always take care of His children because He is a perfect Father who loves you very much.



DOES GOD CAUSE EVERYTHING?

Libertarian view: God created everything and holds it all together! He is perfectly kind and holy. God also created people with the ability to make decisions, and because people are not perfect, they choose to make decisions that are evil. God permits people to do this, but He does not cause them to do it. It breaks God's heart to see people hurt others. He allows it because He wants people to be free to choose good or evil and is always working to redeem their sin and offer a way out.



GOD ISN'T FAIR.

Sometimes it feels like God is not fair. Bad things happen in the world because of sin. When Jesus was on earth, He experienced pain, suffering, and even death. Life was “unfair” for Jesus, too! When it feels like God isn’t fair, we have to remember that God is love. He is the best thing about this world. When we experience sad and hard things, God is asking us to come close to Him and let Him love us more. God hates that bad things happen to us. He has a plan to end bad things for good! His plan is always at work.

This is a good opportunity to share hard/unfair things you've walked through and how you had to trust God for the outcome.



HOW DID MARY HAVE JESUS IF JESUS IS GOD?

God can do anything—even miracles! One miracle God did was the birth of Jesus. God sent His Son to Mary's womb. Mary carried Jesus in her body and gave birth to Him just like [mom/birth mom] gave birth to you! Because God miraculously came upon Mary's womb, Jesus was both fully human and fully God.



WAS JESUS A KID LIKE ME?

Yes and no! Jesus was a boy in a human body like yours. But Jesus was also God! Unlike you, Jesus did not have a human dad. It was important that Jesus be both a man and God.

Jesus had to be a man so that he could take our place, paying the price for the sins of the world. He had to be God because only God can conquer death and set us free. This is why Jesus was both God and man!



WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

The Holy Spirit's job is to "sanctify" us. This is a big word that just means to "make us more like Jesus."

The Spirit speaks softly to our minds, and what He tells us to do will always be the same as what the Bible teaches. Do you ever feel like God speaks to you when you are about to hit your sibling? What about when you want to take something that is not yours? God speaks through His Spirit to remind us to do what is right! He also gives us the strength to make the right choice.



WHY DO I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We need the Holy Spirit so we can know what God wants us to do. God gives us His Word, but the Holy Spirit helps us understand and obey it. God speaks to our hearts through the Spirit and tells us how to make the right choices.

*Examples: Conviction of conscience when a child wants to hit/take a toy/disobey/lie. Talk about how the voice they hear telling them to do what is right is the Spirit leading them to righteousness.