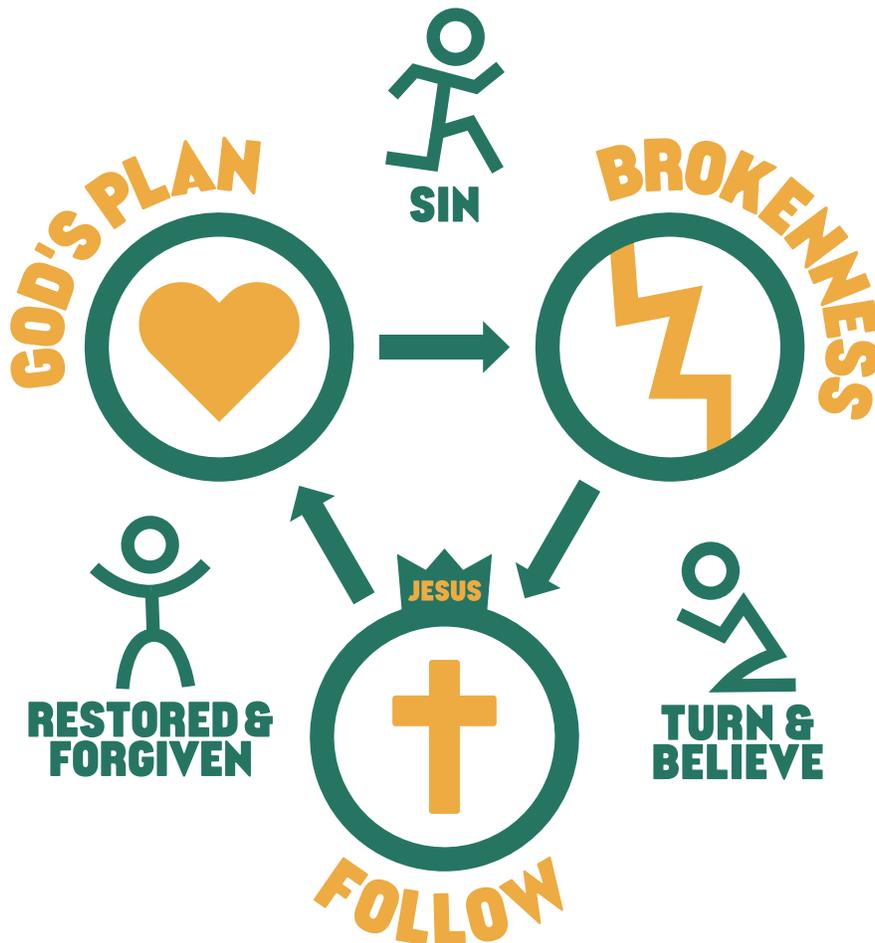


# HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS READY TO FOLLOW JESUS?

**Following Jesus** is an amazing step for your child to take. The conversation around it can be difficult, and the decision to follow Jesus comes at different times for different people. We want you to be prepared to talk with your kids about trusting in Jesus, and we hope this short guide helps you.

Whenever Biltmore Kids meets, we want to *unite around the gospel*, and always give a clear opportunity for kids to respond to what God might be doing in their hearts. However, studies show that we get about 40 hours a year with your kids, while you get about 3,000. We want to come alongside you as the primary disciple-makers of your home and equip you with the tools to have gospel conversations with your kids. Below, you'll find a gospel-sharing tool that we use in Biltmore Kids, and you'll find an explanation of it. When the question arises of "How do I know if my child is ready to follow Jesus?" A great marker of that is them being able to walk you through the gospel-sharing tool below. It's called **Three Circles**. It was developed by the North American Mission Board, and is a clear, concise way to walk through the beauty of God, the brokenness of humanity, and the saving grace of Jesus.



### **DRAW THREE CIRCLES ON A SHEET ON ANY WRITABLE SURFACE.**

#### **GOD'S PLAN**

**Say:** God created the earth and everything in it (Genesis 1-2) and it was good. He created everything in and on the earth. On the sixth day, God created humans. The first man and woman that God created were named Adam and Eve. God created a beautiful garden for Adam and Eve to live in. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect relationship with God. They loved God with all of their heart, and God loved them. God gave Adam and Eve one rule—He told them not to eat from a certain tree in the garden. Adam and Eve chose to eat from the tree when a serpent came to Eve and told her that if she and Adam ate from the tree, they would know as much as God knew. Adam and Eve made the choice to turn away from God, disobey Him, and as a result of that, sin entered the world, breaking our relationship with God (Genesis 3).

**Write the word “sin” with an arrow pointing to the second circle. In the second circle, write the word “Brokenness.”**

#### **BROKENNESS**

**Say:** The second circle is called brokenness. The word brokenness is used because when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world and broke the relationship between God and humans. God is without sin and cannot sin. We try to fix our brokenness with different things (money, relationships, doing good things), but the only way to fix that brokenness is turning from our sin (repenting), believing in and following Jesus (Romans 10:9-10). The bible tells us that the penalty for sin is death, and that is a price that humans cannot pay. We cannot fix our own brokenness. We need a savior. We need a change in direction.

**Write “Turn and Believe” with an arrow pointing to the third circle. In the third circle.**

#### **FOLLOW**

**Say:** The third circle is called follow. When we make the choice to follow Jesus, we are forgiven of our sin (1st John 1:9) and our relationship with God is restored. The bible tells us that when we make the decision to trust Jesus with our lives and follow Him, we are forgiven of our sin, and are walking with Jesus. Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and come alongside us to help us learn to follow Him. When we make the choice to follow Jesus, we devote our lives to trying to be more like Him. When we begin walking with Jesus, we are living how God intends for humans to live—to be in relationship with Him.

**Write “Restored and Forgiven” with an arrow pointing from the third circle to the first circle.**

Walking through this with your child and then having them walk you through it is a great way for you as a parent to see if they are ready to pray to receive Christ. Let your child take the lead in bringing up the conversation. If they are ready, and they want to, lead them in a short prayer asking Jesus to forgive them of sin, and telling Him they want to make Him the Lord of their life.

