

## **Leading a Child to Christ: God's Forever Family**

An explanation and invitation to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

This invitation may be offered during the Advent Season, or adapted with different scripture to any time of year.

It is designed as a supplement for **Lesson 49: Joseph and the Angel** Ages 6-11, Unit 10, Kings & Kingdoms

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:20b-21

**Song Suggestion:** To prepare children's hearts, begin with a meditative Christmas hymn such as "Away In A Manger." Close invitation with a celebratory Christmas hymn such as "Joy To The World," or substitute with songs more familiar to your children.

Meditative instrumental Christmas hymns played softly in the background helps children focus their attention.

### **THE ABC PRAYER OF SALVATION**

**Lord Jesus,  
I Admit that I'm a sinner.  
I Believe You are the Lord  
who died to take my sins away.  
Please Come into my heart  
and I'll follow You forever.  
In Jesus name, I pray.  
Amen!**

Optional: Divide the ABC Prayer of Salvation into 3 slides and show each slide separately: Admit, Believe, Come

**Leaders:** The script is designed for two leaders with a large group of children and teachers but may be adapted for one leader and any size group of children.

**Volunteer:** One child to read

### **Leader 1**

Today's Advent Scripture reading is about Joseph and the angel. Listen carefully as it is read to see if you learn something new about the Christmas story.

**Volunteer** (Child reads Matthew 1:20b-21 from a Bible.)

**"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.'"**

### **Leader 2**

**Thank you, (reader's name) for reading. Boys and girls, I feel like I learn something new every Christmas! I guess I never knew that an angel told *Joseph* the reason that Jesus came to us. And it all came true just like the angel said, "He will save His people from their sins."**

### **Leader 1**

**Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. Everyone sins sometimes, because none of us are perfect. Our sin keeps us separated from God. But God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be forgiven and be close with Him forever.**

### **Leader 2**

**That's true and the way is through believing in Jesus. Baby Jesus grew up and died on the cross to pay for our sins, so all who believe in Him can belong to His forever family.**

**Leader 1**

Jesus didn't just die for the people that lived way back then. He died for all of us—for anyone who will believe in Him.

**Leader 2**

That's why we celebrate Christmas, it's not just because a special baby was born. It's because of who that baby was! Jesus is the only one who can save us so that we can belong to God's forever family.

**Leader 1**

Exactly! That's why we've been learning all about King Jesus and the Kingdom of God. You see, God's Kingdom isn't made up of walls or bricks or buildings. It's made up of the people in God's forever family!

**Leader 2**

Both of us and many of you belong to God's Forever Family. We each have prayed a special prayer to Jesus. (VFX: "Admit" slide) I remember in my prayer, that I admitted I was a sinner, and I told Jesus that I was sorry.

**Leader 1** (VFX: "Believe" slide)

Me too. Then I told Jesus that I believe He is the Lord who died to take my sins away, just like the angel He would! (VFX: "Come" slide) And finally, I asked Jesus to come into my heart so I could follow Him forever.

**Leader 2**

When you pray a prayer like that, Jesus makes you a part of God's forever family right then.

**Leader 1**

Yes. Even though I didn't feel or look any different, Jesus' Holy Spirit was in my heart; I was a whole new person on the inside. I was forgiven of everything I'd ever done and part of God's forever family!

**Leader 2**

So, the question we have for you today is: "Do you want to be part of God's Forever Family?" If you have never asked Jesus to come into your heart, and you would like to do that today, ask yourself if today is the day that you want to pray with your teacher and become a part of God's forever family.

**Leader 1**

If you've ever prayed a prayer like this before, then you are already in God's forever family, so just take this time to thank Jesus for what He has done for you.

**Leader 2**

That's right. If you are not ready for that today, it's okay. You can pray to Jesus anytime your heart is ready. Just spend this time thinking about how much God loves you. We'll wait just a few minutes more. (Individual children come to pray.) Thank you, for being so brave and for choosing to ask Jesus to come into your heart. Teachers, please lead those who want to ask Jesus into their hearts in the A-B-C prayer, as I pray it aloud? (Pray aloud leaving time for the children to repeat each phrase.)

Leader 2 continued...

"Lord Jesus,

**I Admit** that I'm a sinner.

**I Believe** You are the Lord  
who died to take my sins away.

Please **Come** into my heart  
and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen!"

Leader 1

Amen, let's give a round of  
applause for what God has done  
here today. All of the angels in  
heaven celebrate with us when  
anyone chooses to follow Jesus and  
become part of God's forever  
family!

Leader 2

Now, if you are thinking, "I wish I  
had asked Jesus into my heart," I  
want you to know that you can do  
that any time with your teacher or  
your parent, or even all by yourself.  
There is never a wrong time to ask  
Jesus into your heart!

Leader 1

Let's celebrate now and take time  
to thank God for making a way for  
all who believe in Jesus to be in His  
forever family. (Close with a  
Christmas hymn of celebration, such as  
"Joy to the World.")