

## Building a Child's Foundation for Salvation and Baptism

Emmaus Baptist Church statement about a child's spiritual journey (Courtney Ingram):

- "A child's spiritual journey *begins at home*,
- is *cultivated in daily life*,
- encouraged by the *Church*, and
- provides a foundation on which they can *build their own faith*."

Stages of Spiritual Development (Art Murphy, former Children's Pastor at FBC Orlando; President of Children's Ministry Solutions)

- Discovering
- Discerning
- Deciding
- Discipling

Ready or Not? These questions help determine if a child is ready to make a commitment to Christ:

- Is there brokenness over **sin**?
- Does the child understand the basics of **salvation** and how this impacts his or her life?
- Is the child **serious** about this decision?
- Does faith in Jesus and the **significance** of baptism make sense to the child?
  - A young child's "trinity" may consist of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy.
  - If a child is at the stage where pretend characters like these are real, then it may be best to delay in making the decision public.
- Was this decision **Spirit-directed** and **self-made**? In other words, is the child responding to the work of the Holy Spirit, not the pressure or prompting of parents or church leaders?

Books

- "Leading Your Child to Jesus: How Parents Can Talk with their Kids about Faith," by David Staal (e-book also available from David Staal)
- "Nurturing Your Child's Soul: 10 Keys to Helping Your Child Grow in Faith," by Timothy Jones
- "Dear God, I have a Question: Honest Answers to Kids' Questions of Faith," by Kathryn Slattery
- "The 21 Toughest Questions Your Kids will Ask about Christianity," by Alex McFarland
- "The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New," by Marty Machowski
- "The Whole Story for the Whole Family: A Year of Jesus-Centered Family Devotions," by Michael Kelley
- "The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross," by Carl Laferton (Gospel Story picture book)

*"There is only one posture ever appropriate to Christ: surrendered to His Lordship, and believing that He did what He said He did. From the very beginning of their lives, I want my kids to assume this posture! Why would I ever want them to have a different posture toward Christ? ... So I teach my children, all along the way, to be surrendered toward Jesus and believing of what He said He accomplished."* - J.D. Greear (Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart, pgs 48-49)