

The Promised Saviour

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Illustrated by: Tim Shirey

PLEASE NOTE!

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Text published by: CEF® of Europe
Kilchzimmer
4438 Langenbruck
Switzerland
www.cefeurope.com



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Introduction

Practise using the visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the visuals or PowerPoint® (or Keynote) slides and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

How to use the visuals

Cut along the dotted lines on the white page to create various numbered squares and rectangles. (Do not cut the coloured visuals.) With the help of some Blu-Tack® (or similar), use these pieces to cover the corresponding picture on the visuals.

The introductory picture is on one side of the visuals and the pictures which should be covered are on the



Diagram 1



Diagram 2

reverse side. Add two folds as shown (diagram 1).

As you teach the lesson, uncover each picture as you teach about it. Diagram 2 shows the order of the pictures.

PowerPoint® (or Keynote) visuals

If you are using the PowerPoint (or Keynote) version of this lesson, you can choose from two options on the CD.

- 1 The first version contains the flashcard images and lesson cover slide only.
- 2 The second contains the extra features of the special emphasis, applications and memory verse.

At the bottom right side of each slide you will see a small image of a cross which contains a hyperlink. If you click on this image, it will take you to the special emphasis for the lesson, thus allowing you to use the special emphasis at any stage in your teaching. Clicking on the arrow on the special emphasis slide will take you back to the slide you were previously showing.

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Review questions

Some review questions are given which can be used after the lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

The Promised Saviour

Scripture for teachers

Luke 2:10-11,14

Galatians 4:4

Genesis 2:16-17

Exodus 20:15-16

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 12:3

John 14:6

Acts 4:12

Genesis 49:10

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Philippians 2:11

Matthew 7:23

Hebrews 7:25

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

2 Corinthians 8:9

1 Timothy 1:15

John 6:37

Special emphasis

Jesus Christ, the promised Saviour, came to die for our sins

Application

Unsaved: Ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and take control of your life

Saved: Ask Jesus to help you to have victory over Satan and sin

Memory verse

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son ...” (Galatians 4:4)

Visuals

- ◆ Visuals (as explained on page 3)

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint (or Keynote) slides

And

- ◆ Wordstrips: “Genesis 3:15”, “Genesis 12:3”, “Genesis 49:10”, “2 Samuel 7:12-16”, “Isaiah 7:14” and “Micah 5:2”. (You may wish to write out the words of the verses, rather than the reference only.)

PowerPoint introductory picture



PowerPoint picture 1



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PowerPoint picture 1 (small)

Lesson

Introductory picture

Do you look forward to Christmas? To receiving gifts, having nice things to eat, being with your family and on holiday from school? These are special things to look forward to. Everywhere people wish you a “happy Christmas”.

However, all the money which is spent and all the hustle and bustle often make people forget the true meaning of Christmas. Most people do not take time to thank God for the gift of His Son. They are thinking about what they are going to do, rather than what God has done. They do not want the Saviour in their lives.

Picture 1 (Shepherds)

There is another reason for being happy at Christmastime. The first Christmas an angel appeared to some shepherds and said, “I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

At Christmas, you can be happy about the gifts, the nice things to eat, the holidays and the other surprises, but especially you can be happy that the Lord Jesus came to save us from our sin, to be our Saviour. Without Him, there would be no forgiveness for the wrong things we have done, there would be no hope of going to Heaven to be with Him. The promised Saviour came.

The announcement of the angel must have come as a surprise to the shepherds. They were afraid. They did not fully understand all that it meant, that the Saviour was born. Here was the most important event in history since the world began and they were the first ones to know that the Saviour had come.

As you listen to the lesson today, perhaps there are some things which you do not understand. If you want the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, but you do not know how that can happen, I would be glad to help you. Just remain in your seat after the others go at the end of the meeting. If I see you sitting in your seat at the end, I will know that you have a question about how you can have your sins forgiven and I will explain from the Bible what you need to do and what the Lord Jesus will do.

These shepherds did not understand everything, but they went to Bethlehem to see the One about Whom the angel had spoken. They found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. They were full of joy to see the One Who had been promised for so many years. They praised God for all the things they had heard and seen. What a wonderful moment that must have been for them!

Picture 2 (Numbers)

Do you know how many promises God gives in the Old Testament (the first part of the Bible) concerning the coming Saviour? For hundreds of years God’s messengers, the prophets, had spoken about the Saviour Whom God would send into the world. Can you guess how many promises there were? 50? 100? 200? 300?

Allow the children to answer.

The answer is ... more than 300 promises about the Saviour and what He would do. God had even given 30 promises especially about what the Saviour was going to suffer during the six hours on the cross, when He would take the punishment for our sins. The Bible says, “When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4).

At exactly the right time in history - not a year too soon or too late - God sent His Son into the world. He waited until everything was ready for His promises to be fulfilled. For centuries He had been preparing His people.

Very often we do not prepare to celebrate Christmas as we should. We are in such a hurry. There are so many things to be done at the last moment. God was not in a hurry. He chose the century, the year, the month and even the day when the Lord Jesus would be born. He had prepared everything with much care. “When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4).

Do you know when it was that God gave the first promise about the coming of the Saviour? It was right back at the beginning of creation, as soon as the first sin was committed by man. You remember the story.

Picture 3 (Adam and Eve in the garden)

God had placed the first man and the first woman in a beautiful garden. He had said that they could eat the fruit of all of the trees, except for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He said that the day they would eat of it, they would surely die (Genesis 2:16-17).

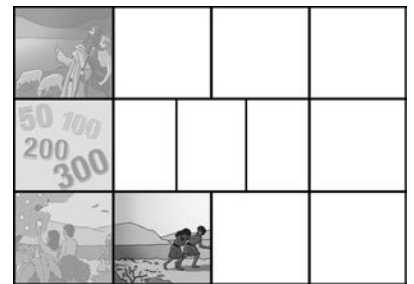
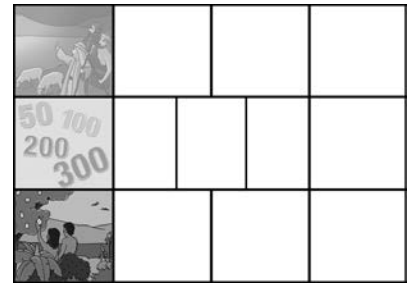
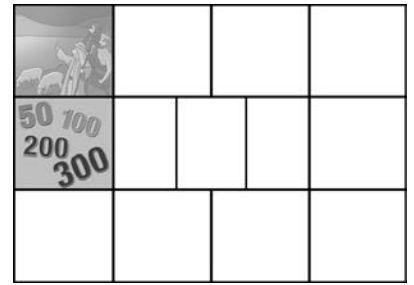
Picture 4 (Adam and Eve leaving the garden)

Satan, the enemy of God, came into the garden of Eden disguised as a snake. He encouraged Eve to take the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Instead of listening to God, Eve listened to Satan and ate the fruit of the tree. She gave it to Adam and he ate it too. They disobeyed God.

Picture 5 (People today disobey God)

We too have disobeyed God. Let me show you something. Have you ever been in a hurry to go out to school and you button your coat and find there is one hole over and no button for it? Perhaps you begin

PowerPoint picture 2



PowerPoint pictures 1 - 2

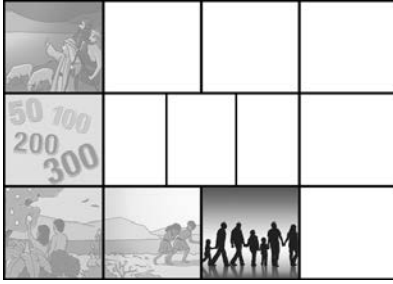
PowerPoint picture 3

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 3

PowerPoint picture 4

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 4

PowerPoint picture 5



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

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PowerPoint pictures 1 - 5

PowerPoint picture 6



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

again and this time you find that you have a hole but there is no button to go in it. The reason is, that if you get the first one wrong, they are wrong right down the line. This helps us understand what happened for us. Adam and Eve sinned, their children sinned, and right down until today, all have sinned and disobeyed God - even you and I. God said, "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15). Have you ever taken something which did not belong to you? God said, "You shall not bear false witness" (Exodus 20:16). Have you ever told a lie? Perhaps your mother asked you if you did something wrong and you said, "No." Yet you had done that and you are simply telling a lie. All of us have disobeyed God.

However, God told Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, that He was going to send someone to conquer Satan.

Show the words and the reference "Genesis 3:15".

God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15).

One day a woman was going to give birth to a special child. He would be stronger than God's enemy, Satan. He was going to conquer Satan, even though He was going to be hurt Himself.

God kept His promise. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He won the victory over Satan. If you are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you can take this promise for yourself. Before you trusted Christ, you could not stop doing wrong and you could not say "no" to Satan. You were a slave to your sinful habits. Now that you have put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have the desire and the power to say "no" to Satan and to doing wrong things. Oh yes, you still do wrong things, but you are not constantly overcome by them, as you were before. Now you are able to say "yes" and to do His will. Because God kept His promise and the Lord Jesus came to conquer Satan, you can have victory in Him.

Picture 6 (Abraham)

The next promise about the Saviour Who was to come, was given about 2,000 years before His birth. Isn't that amazing! God gave this promise to Abraham. God said that the Saviour would be one of His descendants and that through Him all the nations would be blessed.

Show the words and the reference "Genesis 12:3".

God gave the promise to Abraham, "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

Four thousand years ago Abraham did not know that there would be a British nation, a Chinese nation, a Turkish nation, a Swiss nation. Yet God knew that and He knew that whichever person of whichever nation who puts their trust in Christ, that person is truly blessed.

This promise was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only Saviour. No one comes to the Father except through Him (from John 14:6). Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

You can take this promise for yourself today. You will have your sins forgiven and will be blessed, if you put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is immediately made right in God's sight. Isn't it wonderful that many years later the offspring of Abraham, the Lord Jesus Christ, came to this Earth to bring His blessing and salvation?

Picture 7 (From tribe of Judah)

God was even more specific. About 1,700 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, God even said from which tribe the Saviour would be born - from the tribe of Judah.

Show the words and the reference "Genesis 49:10".

In Genesis 49:10 we read, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people."

The people had to wait many years to see the fulfilment of the promise, but God is faithful. There was even a long period when the future of the tribe of Judah seemed uncertain because of their disobedience to God. The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon. God took care of them and brought them back into the country, so that His promise would be fulfilled.

The Lord Jesus is the King Who came to rule in hearts and lives. He can make us what He wants us to be. The Lord keeps His promises.

If you and I could foretell what is going to happen in seventeen days' time, that would be wonderful. But God foretold what was going to happen 1,700 years later. The promised King has come. You can take this promise for yourself. You can obey Him and say, "My Lord and my God."

Picture 8 (King David)

God went even further and told us about the family in which the Saviour would be born. About 1,000 years before the Lord Jesus came to be born here below, God promised that He would be born into the family of David. David had been a simple shepherd. He looked after the sheep out in the fields. He had seven brothers older than himself, but God chose him to rule over his people. David was a good king. Some of his descendants were bad kings and others were good. These kings reigned for different lengths of time, but there was One coming Who would be different.

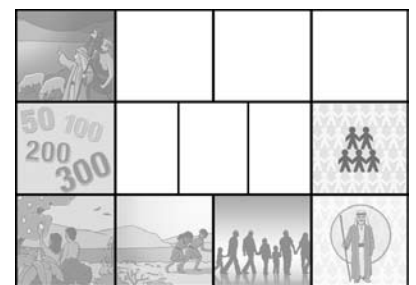
Show the words and the reference "2 Samuel 7:12-16".

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 6

Read (or have a child read) the verses from your Bible.

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PowerPoint picture 7



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 7

PowerPoint picture 8



Read (or have a child read) the verses from your Bible.

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 8

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PowerPoint picture 9



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 9

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God said to King David, "I will set up your seed after you ... and I will establish his kingdom ... I will be his Father, and he shall be My son ... Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

The King of Kings was going to come and He was going to reign for ever. His kingdom is different from those of this world. It is the kingdom of Heaven, and He rules with truth, righteousness and love. For you and me, who are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, He is our King. The little baby in the manger will come back in power and glory to reign here on this Earth. Everyone will say that He is Lord of all (Philippians 2:11). If they do not receive Him as their Saviour and King in this life, then one day they will have to acknowledge that He is Lord in the life to come. It will be too late to be saved then. If they do not want Him and His forgiveness in this life, they will carry the punishment of their sins for ever in the life to come. The Lord Jesus will say, "Depart from Me, I never knew you" (from Matthew 7:23).

Is the Lord Jesus your King, your Lord? Does He rule in your life? You can turn to Him today and ask Him to forgive your sin and take control of your life. The Bible says, "He is ... able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25). If you ask Him to save you He will do it according to His promise.

Picture 9 (Manger scene - part 1)

God went even further in His promises about the coming Saviour. Not only did He speak of the nation, of the tribe and of the family from which He would be born. God even spoke beforehand of who the mother of the Saviour would be. 750 years before His birth, God said that He would be born of a virgin.

Show the words and the reference "Isaiah 7:14".

God said through His prophet Isaiah, "The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

A wonderful miracle was going to happen in the body of a young lady, who had never been together with a man. No other baby was ever born like this one. Joseph was not the father of the Lord Jesus Christ. God is His father. The Son of God, Who had always been with the Father in Heaven, became man. The Holy Spirit worked in a mighty way, so that Mary would be mother of this baby, Who is God and man in one person. He is Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), which means "God with us". We are not able to understand such a mystery, that the Son of God should live in the womb of Mary, before being born that first Christmas.

God fulfilled this wonderful promise, even though it must have seemed impossible to Isaiah and to many others. It was necessary that the Saviour should be both God and man. Only a perfect man could die in the place of sinful men. Only the Son of God could take the place of so many on the cross of Calvary. Someone loved you so much that He died for you. The Son of God gave His life to take away your sin.

God showed the mother who was going to give birth to this child and He spoke about it 750 years before the Saviour came.

Picture 10 (Manger scene - part 2)

Again, more than 700 years before the birth of Christ, God showed by one of His messengers, Micah, in which town the Saviour was going to be born. It was in the little town of Bethlehem.

Show the words and the reference "Micah 5:2".

Micah was led by the Holy Spirit to write, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

The only One Who is "everlasting" is God. There was never a time when the Son of God was not there. He was there, even before the world was created. He is the creator of everything. He had to become a man to be our Saviour. God chose the exact place on this Earth where He was to be born.

God guided in everything so that Mary and Joseph would be forced to go to Bethlehem just then, because of a decree of Caesar Augustus. They lived in Nazareth, but they had to undertake a long journey of about four days to go to Bethlehem. God kept every one of His promises, including this one, that His Son would be born in the City of David. Isn't it wonderful how God guides in every detail! We do not have the time today to look at the other 300 promises concerning the Saviour.

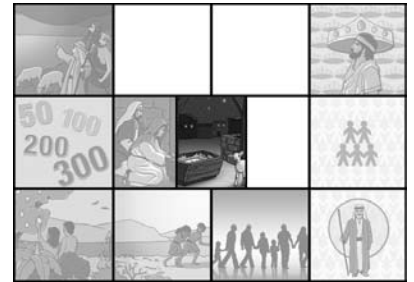
Picture 11 (Manger scene - part 3)

Finally, when everything was ready, the promised Saviour was born. Every one of the promises concerning His birth, life, ministry and so on were fulfilled exactly as God had said.

Many people were surprised by the place chosen by God for the birth of the Saviour. They thought that the most important person in the history of the world should be born in a palace and should be surrounded by powerful rich people. No, the promised Saviour was born in a dark stable, which was used to keep animals. "He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Mary took the little baby, wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger, where the animals took their food. The stable was dirty and did not smell nice. The Lord Jesus was born in complete poverty. The One Who had created the universe, the King of glory, became a little baby, Who was weak and dependent upon His mother. God became man, for Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. Why was this necessary? Why did He come? The Bible tells us that He came to save us from our sin (1 Timothy 1:15). We had disobeyed God and the only way we could be saved from our sin was that the Son of God become man and that He should die and rise again for us.

PowerPoint picture 10

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.



PowerPoint pictures 1 - 10

PowerPoint picture 11



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

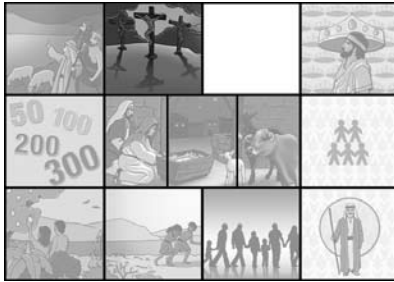
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PowerPoint pictures 1 - 12

PowerPoint picture 13



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint pictures 1 - 13



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

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Picture 12 (Crosses)

It is important that we should look beyond Bethlehem. The Lord Jesus did not remain a little baby. He grew up and became a man. He was perfect, the only One Who never sinned. He always obeyed His Heavenly Father. One day on the cross He took the punishment for our sins. He paid for us, not with gold or silver, but with His own precious blood, His life. We did not deserve such love.

Picture 13 (Open tomb)

God had promised that, not only would He die on the cross, but also that He would rise again from the dead. That is exactly what happened. The third day, on Easter Sunday morning, the Lord Jesus rose victorious over death. By this God showed that His sacrifice on the cross was enough to take away our sin and that He truly is the Son of God. Is it any wonder that the angels praised God at the time of His birth, saying, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14).

Here then is the wonderful good news at this Christmas season - "There is born to you this day ... a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The One Whom God had promised for all those years, has come and has done all that is needed to be able to take away our sin.

What a joy it is to be able to tell you that everything has been done for you, so that your sins may be forgiven and that you can be together with God. The promised Saviour has come, the One Whom we needed.

Do you see today that you are a sinner, who has disobeyed God? You need to own up to your own sin and be willing for the Lord Jesus to change your life. Do you see that the Lord Jesus is the only Saviour, Whom God promised to send? You need to ask the Lord Jesus to save you from your sin. If you really mean that, you can say to the Lord Jesus just now, "Lord Jesus, save me." Here is His promise to you if you will come to Him like that today, turning away from your sin and trusting Him completely as your Lord and Saviour, "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37). His promise is true. You can count on Him completely. He will forgive your sin and make you what He wants you to be, if you turn from your sin and trust Him personally as your Lord and Saviour. His promise can become true in your life today. He wants to be your Saviour.

Review questions

- 1 At Christmas, which gift do most people not take time to thank God for? (The gift of His Son.)
- 2 Who were the first to know that the Saviour was born? (The shepherds, who were told by the angels.)
- 3 How many promises did God give in the Old Testament about Christ's suffering on the cross? (30.)

- 4 When did God give the first promise that He would send a Saviour?
(In the garden of Eden, to Adam and Eve.)
- 5 If you believe in Jesus as your Saviour, who and what can you have
victory over? (Satan and sin.)
- 6 From which tribe of Israel was Jesus born? (Judah.)
- 7 Name two Old Testament characters in our lesson who were given
a promise about the coming Saviour. (Abraham; David.)
- 8 How can you make Jesus king of your life? (Ask Him to forgive
your sin and take control of your life.)
- 9 Who was Jesus' real Father? (God.)
- 10 What was different about Jesus to other people, as He grew up
and became a man? (He never sinned.)

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our Heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).