

Leading a Child to Christ: A New Heart

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

This invitation can be used separately or as a supplement for **Lesson 43: Ezekiel and the Dry Bones**

Ages 6-11, Unit 9, Prophets & Promises.

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:26

Song Suggestion:

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

Close invitation with a familiar song of praise and celebration, or a Bible Memory Verse song such as "Chosen People" or "At The Name Of Jesus." Include lyric slides.

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

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

Supplies:

2 large cloth hearts, box containing 8 large rocks and one cinderblock.

Suggestion: Provide Children's Guide for New Believers to any child who prayed the A.B.C. Prayer. Guides are available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

Leader 1 (holds large cloth heart)
How many of you believe that your heart is very important to God?
(Respond.) **God wants to be the Lord of your heart. He wants to be the most important one in your life!**

Leader 2 (enters from back carrying box) **Hold on! Hold up! I brought the important stuff!**

Leader 1
We're talking about our hearts.

Leader 2
I know, I know. You said we were going to be talking about important stuff to do with our hearts and everything in this box is close to my heart. This is all the stuff that everybody loves! I need something to cover the table so it doesn't get scratched. (grabs cloth heart) This will do!

Leader 1
But that represents our hearts.

Leader 2
It's okay, you're gonna love this!
(takes large flat rock from box) **Okay, this rock represents sports! Man, I love sports! Football, basketball, soccer! Who loves soccer?** (Respond.)
(takes another rock from box) **This rock represents television. I love watching T.V.** (puts rocks on top of cloth heart)

Leader 1
But that's our hearts.

Leader 2
I know. Isn't it great? (takes out more rocks) **Now, these rocks stand music. It's my "rock" music collection.**
(places them down one by one) **Hannah Montana, Taylor Swift, and all three Jonas Brothers.**

Leader 1

Well all of these things are fun but they're not the most important things in our life.

Leader 2 (takes out larger rock)

Ah, you're right! This is the most important one! Do you know what this rock represents? Candy! Don't tell me you don't love candy.

Leader 1

Well yeah, everyone loves candy...

Leader 2 (takes out more rocks) There you go. And this one is pizza and this one is McDonald's and this one... (takes out cinder block) this one represents video games!

Leader 1

Wow, that's a big one!

Leader 2

I really love video games.

Leader 1

OK, God wants to live in your heart.

Leader 2

Well...there's a little bit of room between the Big Mac and Kevin Jonas.

Leader 1

God doesn't want to be squeezed into our lives. He wants our whole heart and yours is kind of weighted down by all this other stuff that you are putting first.

Leader 2

Ooh, you're right. Do you think this is what Ezekiel meant when He told the people they had hearts of stone?

Leader 1

Kind of...don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with having stuff. All of these things are fine on their own. We just don't want to love other things so much that there's no room left for God. Treating other things as more important than God is wrong in God's eyes.

Leader 2

So we need to leave some space for God, too.

Leader 1

Well, God doesn't just want some space in our hearts, He wants the most important place in our hearts and to be the Lord of our hearts.

Leader 2

Man, my heart was getting pretty heavy and pretty hard because I was weighing it down with all this stuff.

Leader 1

But the good news is the promise that God made to us through the prophet Ezekiel. He said, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Leader 2 (takes out new heart shaped cloth) So, God promises me a brand new heart! (covers the rocks)

Leader 1

God promises all of us a brand new heart! If we just invite Jesus into our lives, He'll give us a brand new heart.

Leader 2 (to Leader 1)

Do you think it's hard to invite Jesus to come into our hearts?

Leader 1

Nope, it's as easy as A-B-C! God wants us to repent, or turn away from our sins, and turn towards Him. To sin is to do wrong in God's eyes.

Leader 2

That's right. Jesus died to pay for our sins so that we could be forgiven and live forever with Him. (VFX: Display "Admit" slide.) To live forever with Jesus, all anyone has to do is three simple things. First ADMIT that you are a sinner—that's someone who has done wrong in God's eyes.

Leader 1

Yes, you can tell Jesus that you're sorry for your sins. (VFX: "Believe" slide.) Then tell Him that you BELIEVE that He is the Lord who died to take your sins away.

Leader 2 (VFX: "Come" slide.)

And finally, ask Jesus to COME into your heart so you can follow Him forever. He'll give you a new heart, a new spirit and a new life. You'll be a part of God's forever family.

Leader 1

If you have never asked Jesus to come into your heart, we're going to give you a chance to do that today. Your teachers are standing at the back of the room and they would love to pray with any of you who want to ask Jesus to come into your heart.

Leader 2

Let's all bow our heads, close our eyes and pray. Let's all take just a few moments now to think about Jesus. Maybe some of you have waited for a chance to invite Jesus to live in your heart. If you feel like today is the day that you want to

trust and follow Him, then simply stand up and go to the back of the room with your teacher.

Leader 1

If you have already asked Jesus to come into your heart, then you don't need to do it again, because Jesus never forgets. Just use this time to pray for what God is doing in the hearts of others around you.

Leader 2

That's right. And, if you are not ready to make that choice, that's okay, too. Just bow your head for a moment and think about how much Jesus loves you. We'll wait just a few minutes more. (Individual children come to pray.)

Leader 1

Thank you, for being so brave and for choosing to trust and follow Jesus. (turns to leader 2) Would you lead us in the A-B-C prayer? We can repeat it together after you.

Leader 2 (prays)

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 to celebrate what God has done here today. The Bible says that all of heaven is celebrating with us when anyone chooses to follow Jesus and become part of God's forever family!

Leader 2

Now if any of you are thinking, "I wish I had asked Jesus into my heart," know that you can do that any time with your teachers or any adult in this room. Or, you may want to pray at home with your parent. 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 belong to God and be in His forever family.

(Close with a familiar song of praise and celebration, or a Bible Memory Verse song such as "Chosen People" or "At The Name Of Jesus" available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)