

Helping Children Follow Jesus

At Roar VBS, children don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action through God Sightings. As they travel from station to station, they go deeper into their understanding of God and God's Son, Jesus. Most important, children learn that because Jesus loves us, he came to die for our sins and make a way for us to live with God forever.

You'll notice that there's no set time for children to make a faith commitment. We feel that Roar helps children build relationships—with other children, with adults, and with Jesus. And since each child is at a different point in his or her relationship with Jesus, programming a time for commitment may be confusing to some children. However, if it's part of your church tradition to include a time for children to make a faith decision, the VBS Director may add it in during Safari Celebration on Day 4.

If you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. If we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. If we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

You may want to lead the child in a simple prayer inviting Jesus to be part of his or her life. You may also want to share one or more of the following Scripture passages with the child. Encourage the child to read the verses with you from his or her own Bible.

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8-11
- Romans 6:23
- Ephesians 2:4-8

If you feel uncomfortable about talking to the child, refer him or her to your church's pastor or another leader who will help the child understand what it means to believe in Jesus. Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).