

Salvation

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Talking to your teens about salvation is such a blessing! This conversation is an opportunity to explain the core belief of Christianity—that salvation is a gift of grace from God, received through faith in Jesus Christ. Encourage them to ask questions and express their thoughts. It's important to convey that salvation is not about being perfect or following a set of rules but about a personal relationship with God through Jesus. Reassure them that doubts and questions are a natural part of faith development, and your open and honest dialogue can guide them in understanding this fundamental truth of Christianity.

➤ conversation starter

What are your thoughts on what it means to be saved? Do you have any questions about how someone becomes a Christian?

How do you feel about the idea that salvation is a gift and not something we earn?

➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Clarify the Concept of Grace:** Explain that grace is an unearned favor from God, and it's the foundation of salvation. Salvation is not a reward for good behavior, but a gift that God freely offers out of love.
- **Discuss Faith in Jesus:** Emphasize that faith in Jesus Christ—His life, death, and resurrection—is central to Christian belief and salvation. Explain that it's about trusting in Jesus and what He has done for us.
- **Encourage Personal Reflection:** Invite teens to reflect on their own beliefs and feelings about salvation.
- **Address Misconceptions:** Clarify any misconceptions about salvation, such as the idea that people can earn their way into heaven through good deeds, or that only "perfect" people are saved.
- **Share Your Experience:** Talk about your own faith journey and how you came to understand and accept the truth of salvation. Personal stories can be very impactful.
- **Talk About Relationship with God:** Discuss how salvation is the beginning of a lifelong relationship with God, not just a one-time event. It's about growing in faith.
- **Discuss the Role of Good Works:** While salvation is not earned by good works, explain how good deeds are a response to God's love and a way to live out one's faith.
- **Offer Reassurance:** Reassure them that it's normal to have questions or doubts; the journey of faith is ongoing.
- **Pray Together:** Offer to pray together, asking for understanding and faith.
- **Encourage Continued Exploration:** Suggest that they continue exploring this topic through Bible reading, youth group discussions, or conversations with trusted spiritual mentors.

