

NewHope Students

Counseling a Student in Salvation

Why is it important?

The reason we do counseling is simply to make sure a student understands the decision they are displaying that they want to make. At times students will say they want to accept Christ because their friend did, or they don't really understand what it means completely but they know that they want to have that relationship. Through Counseling students, we ensure their decision to follow Christ is genuine and affirm them in that decision.

Where to start?

Before beginning to ask the deep questions, it's always important to find out where a student stands. When a student comes back to be counseled, the first thing to ask them is, **"Why did you come back to talk to me?"** If a student says that they asked Jesus to be the leader of their life for the first time, or they want to know Jesus, or that they chose to believe in Jesus for the first time, then they are on the right track. If the student simply says "I don't know" or, "my friend came back", or can't give a coherent answer, then we know that maybe having a relationship with Jesus is something they are still thinking about and shift the conversation to what it means to have a relationship with Jesus.

If they have told you that they want to have a relationship with Jesus or just chose to do so here are some follow up questions to make sure they completely understand the decision they have made and don't have any further questions. We want our students to be confident in their decision to have a relationship with Jesus.

So, What do you know about Jesus?

If a student has expressed that they want Jesus to be the leader of their life, it is important that they understand what this means. Your next question should be something like, **"Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?"** A student should respond by telling you that Jesus died on the cross because he loves them and this was the only way that their sins could be taken away. If a student cannot explain why Jesus had to die, talk through it with them. They might not know how to word why Jesus did what he did. We want to make sure we teach them.

Once you make sure that the student understands they have sin and that sin separates them from God, you can ask, **"What is the *one way* we can have a relationship with God?"** This question is to help clear up a misunderstanding that many people who grow up in the church never seem to get past. It is important to make sure that the student knows that

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believing in Jesus and having our sins forgiven is the only way we can have a relationship with God.

If a student seems to understand the meaning of salvation, take the time to ask them, **“How does your life look different when you ask Jesus to be the leader of your life?”**. This is a pretty broad question and may need some more prompting and explanation, Help the student understand that their sin is forgiven, God promises to always stay with them.

Quick Tips for Counseling

- Ask all questions Individually
- Reword questions if a student doesn't seem to understand
- If a student seems to know all of the textbook answers make sure that this is the **FIRST TIME** they have asked Jesus to be the leader of their life. If they have already done this, explain to them the promise God makes that he will not leave them! Help them to find assurance in their decision to rededicate their life to Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you discernment and the right words to say!

Questions and Appropriate Answers:

Why did you come back to talk to me?

I asked Jesus to be the leader of my life for the first time

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Jesus died on the cross because he loves me and took the punishment for my sins

What is the one way that we can have a relationship with God?

By believing in Jesus and having my sin taken away

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How does your life look different after you ask Jesus to be the leader of your life?

My sins are gone and I can talk to Jesus all the time. He helps guide me and shows me how to love others and share His love with others.