

GOOD NEWS IN THE VALLEY



GOD AND COUNTRY FESTIVAL TRAINING GUIDE

www.godandcountryfestival.com

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Treasure
Valley 
GOD AND COUNTRY FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL FRIEND CHECKLIST

☑ Get Ready

- **Make** sure you are registered as a Festival Friend through your church or online at www.festivalfriend.com.
- **Watch** for your reminder postcard in the mail, email or text prior to the event.
- **Check** the Festival Friend website, www.festivalfriend.com in March for important updates, schedule of counselor briefings, and presentation times.
- **Bring** your Bible.

☑ Get Set

- **Go** to Festival Friend check-in to pick up your counseling materials and identification.
- **Attend** a counselor briefing. (*Briefings are approx. 15 minutes*)

☑ Go

- **Look** for a place to counsel where you see the fewest Festival Friends.
- **Approach** someone who has raised their hand, after the evangelist identifies you. **Counsel the same gender.**
- **Listen** for the cue from the emcee introducing you to those with raised hands.
- **Introduce** yourself and ask the responder, "Why did you raise your hand?"
- **Decipher** their response. If they have not already done so, help them circle the symbol on the response card that best describes their response.
- **Lead the inquirer** through the appropriate response page in the counseling booklet.
- **Remember** to be clear and sensitive, listening closely and adding personal experiences and Bible verses that apply.
- **Give** the counseling booklet to the inquirer.
- **Fill out the response card** with the inquirer completely and legibly.
- **Encourage** them to connect with a church and to expect a phone call or email from a local church in the near future.
- **Pray** with the inquirer and their accompanying friends or family.
- **Hand in all response cards to ushers positioned at the flags.**

Visit www.festivalfriend.com in the month of March for Festival Friend briefings and Gospel presentation times as well as other final instructions.

Pastors, Spanish language counselors, other language counselors, and extra materials will be available at flags throughout the festival site.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q: What should I bring to the festival?

A: Bring a small Bible in an easy-to-read translation, copy of reminder email, pen, and – most importantly – someone who needs to know Jesus Christ.

2. Q: What should I do if the person I am counseling has a spiritual, psychological, or theological problem or question that I am not prepared to handle?

A: Take them to speak with a pastor at one of the festival flags. This is especially important if you are counseling someone who is dealing with some form of addiction, is currently in an abusive relationship, or involved in a cult.

Q: Can I counsel more than one person at a time?

A: If you encounter a group of people who want to be counseled, attempt to find additional help. Look for other Festival Friends around you and ask them to assist you. Also, if you speak with a couple who are both making commitments, ask them if they would like to be counseled separately or together before proceeding.

3. Q: How will inquirers be referred to local churches?

A: Following the festival, a group of local pastors will refer those who respond at the festival to a local partnering church. If the person who responded indicates that they regularly attend a local church or they have a friend who does, then they will be referred to that church. If they do not indicate affiliation with a local church, they will be referred to a partnering church near their home. **Inform the person you counsel to expect a call from a church leader during the week following the festival and encourage them to begin attending church right away.**

4. Q: Can I counsel at more than one area each day (when applicable)?

A: Yes, you can counsel as often as you like at the various presentations in the kids' area, Action Sports, and main-stage areas. To counsel children, you must have watched the children's training portion of the video.

5. Q: How do I counsel children onsite?

A: You must go through additional training. When you counsel a child you should get down on their level and look them in the eye when you talk to them. Also, make sure to fill out the children's response card first before you begin to counsel. Go to www.festivalfriend.com for more information.

6. Q: Can I serve as a volunteer at the festival and serve as a counselor too (when applicable)?

A: Yes, you are welcome to serve as a volunteer for part of the day and serve as a counselor during the other times.

7. Q: Can I exchange personal information with the person I counsel?

A: Yes, you are welcome to exchange information with those you counsel. However, YOU MUST TURN IN the response card, so use a separate piece of paper. If you choose to exchange information, please continue the correspondence during the first few weeks following the festival and encourage them to get connected to a local church.

FOR CHILDREN 8 YEARS & YOUNGER

**FOR GOD LOVED
THE WORLD SO MUCH**



GOD MADE EVERYTHING- YOU AND ME!



**HIS LOVE IS SO BIG! HIS LOVE IS
HIGHER THAN THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN, AND
DEEPER THAN THE DEEPEST OCEAN.**

**HE LOVES THE WHOLE WORLD
AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN IT.**

**BUT WE HAVE ALL DISOBEYED
GOD'S RULES. FOR INSTANCE: LYING,
CHEATING, AND DISOBEYING PARENTS...
THIS IS CALLED SIN, AND IT
SEPARATES US FROM GOD.**

**THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY SON**



**BUT GOD LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE
WANTS TO FORGIVE OUR SINS
AND BE WITH US FOREVER.**

**GOD GAVE US A VERY SPECIAL
GIFT- HIS ONLY SON, JESUS.**

**JESUS DIED ON A CROSS FOR
OUR SINS
AND TOOK THE PUNISHMENT SO
WE WOULDN'T
HAVE TO BE SEPARATED FROM GOD.**

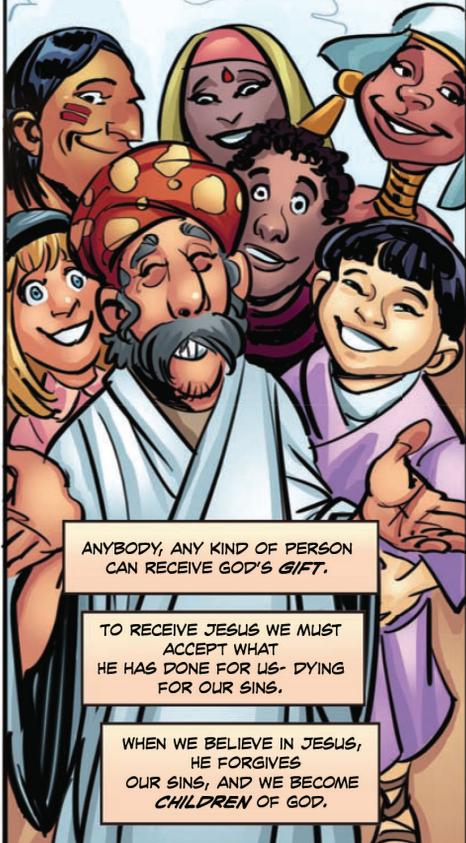
**THREE DAYS LATER HE CAME BACK
TO LIFE AGAIN. JESUS IS THE
ONLY WAY TO GOD.**

**NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD HOW MUCH JESUS LOVES
DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF**

**DEAR LORD .
I KNOW I HAVE SINNED, AND I AM SORRY. THANK YOU FOR
COME INTO MY LIFE RIGHT NOW. I WANT TO BE YOUR CHILD
IN JESUS' NAME**

THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM

WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE



ANYBODY, ANY KIND OF PERSON CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT.

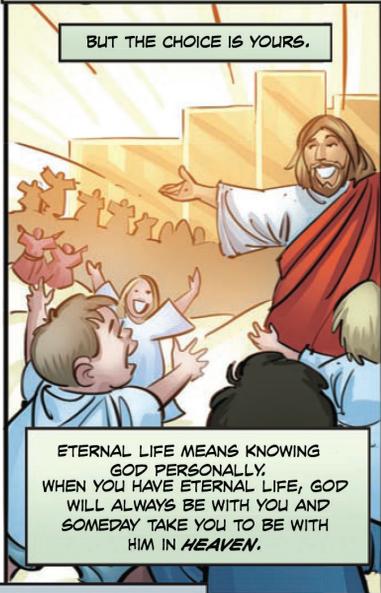
TO RECEIVE JESUS WE MUST ACCEPT WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US- DYING FOR OUR SINS.

WHEN WE BELIEVE IN JESUS, HE FORGIVES OUR SINS, AND WE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.



GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO *PERISH*, TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM FOREVER IN A PLACE CALLED HELL.

BUT THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



ETERNAL LIFE MEANS KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY. WHEN YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, GOD WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU AND SOMEDAY TAKE YOU TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.

ES YOU AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO OBEY HIM, OF GOD'S FOREVER FAMILY?

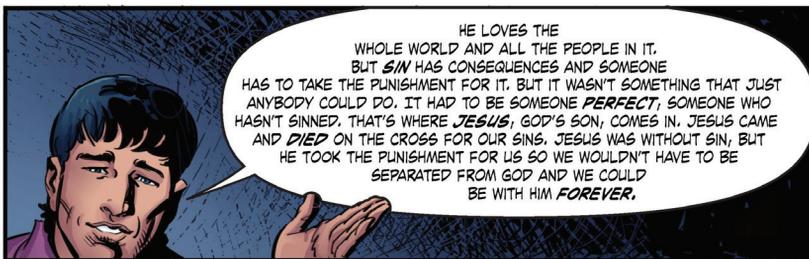
RD JESUS,
U FOR DYING FOR ME. PLEASE FORGIVE MY SINS AND
CHILD. PLEASE HELP ME TO LIVE FOR YOU EACH DAY.
NAME, AMEN.

FOR CHILDREN 9 YEARS & OLDER

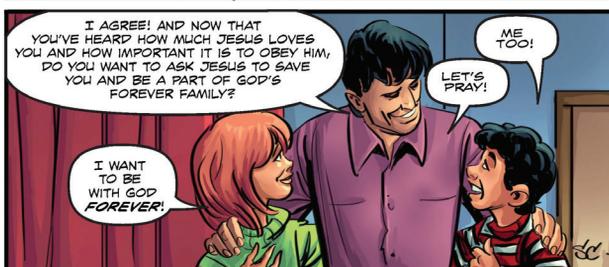


"DEAR LORD **JESUS**, I KNOW I HAVE SINNED AND THAT MY SIN SEPARATES ME FROM YOU AND **ROSE** AGAIN FOR ME SO MY SINS CAN BE **FORGIVEN**. PLEASE BE MY CHILD. PLEASE HELP ME OBEY AND LIVE FOR YOU."

Sample of the counseling materials you will receive onsite



WELL...NOT QUITE. YOU CAN BE, BUT YOU HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF. ANYONE CAN ACCEPT THIS GIFT, BUT IF YOU DON'T, THE CONSEQUENCE FOR OUR SIN IS SEPARATION FROM GOD FOREVER IN A PLACE CALLED HELL. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE WE NEED TO CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTHS AND BELIEVE IN OUR HEARTS THAT HE IS THE LORD. WHEN WE DO THAT WE WON'T PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



SEPARATES ME FROM YOU. I AM SORRY FOR MY SIN. I KNOW YOU DIED TO SAVE ME. PLEASE FORGIVE MY SINS AND COME INTO MY LIFE RIGHT NOW. I WANT TO LIVE FOR YOU THE REST OF MY LIFE. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN."

Sample of the counseling materials you will receive onsite

RECEIVING JESUS (ADULTS)



Receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

**You just prayed to receive Jesus Christ.
You asked Him to come into your life.**

Jesus Christ comes in

Revelation
3:20

Here is what the Bible says just happened. Jesus Christ says, *"Listen, I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me."*

What did Jesus Christ say He would do if you asked Him in?

"I will _____."

"Coming into" means that Jesus is there with you—offering personal fellowship and friendship for the rest of your days. Jesus does not force fellowship on us, but is always there, ready and available to be present in every aspect of our lives. It is up to us to open the door to our lives and invite Him in, and fellowship with Him on a continual basis.

The Bible says, *"Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children."*

What did Jesus Christ say you would become if you receive him?

**Therefore,
you are
a child
of God**

John 1:12-13

Being God's child means you now belong to God and you are a part of His family. You are no longer alone, no longer apart from God, and no longer apart from other people who love and follow Jesus.

And You are Saved

Romans 10:9

The Bible also says *"If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved."*

What does this verse promise to those who confess and believe in Jesus Christ?

"You will _____."

You have been saved from a life separated from God, both now in the present and for an eternity. Jesus promised that Father God would send the Holy Spirit to be our counselor, to be present with us, and to live inside of us.

Additional Bible verses: Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9;
Romans 10:13; Romans 6:23

Sample of the counseling materials you will receive onsite

REDEDICATION (ADULTS)



Rededication or Restoration

You have already received Christ and know Him personally, but you are rededicating your life to Him today. Your sin has kept you from God, but now you are returning to Him and seeking His forgiveness.

How to be forgiven

1 John 1:9

The Bible says, *"But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing."*

What must we do to be forgiven? _____

What does God say He will do if we confess? _____

It is by God's grace alone that we are saved and forgiven. We have done nothing to earn it—nothing to deserve it—but it comes from God's love for us alone.

Right now take time to be specific with God about any unconfessed sins.

The Bible says, *"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you."*

Moving Forward

Proverbs 28:13

Giving up our sin means turning to God, acknowledging our sin, and asking for His strength through His Spirit (Galatians 5:16, Philippians 4:13) to help overcome and turn away from sin. **We have received the Spirit of God that lives inside of us to help us** overcome our sinful desires and struggles. It is the Spirit of God as we follow Him, and the prompting through conviction as we live in relationship with Him, that leads us to a place of confession of sin.

When moving forward following confession, it is key to:

1. Be in daily fellowship with Jesus. (Have a daily quiet time, pray, worship, read the Scriptures.)
2. Be in daily fellowship with other believers. (Develop trusting and true friendships with other Christians to share life with.)

Additional Bible verses: 1 John 2:1, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 8:1, Psalm 32:5, 1 John 2:1-2, Psalm 66:18

Sample of the counseling materials you will receive onsite

KNOWING JESUS (ADULTS)



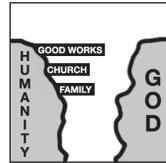
How to Know Jesus Christ

1. God's Plan—Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to fully experience the peace and life that only He can give. The Bible says, *"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

2. Humanity's Problem—Separation

Being at peace with God is not automatic because human beings by nature are separated from God. The Bible says, *"everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence."* (Romans 3:23) Romans 6:23 adds: *"For sin pays its wage—death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord."* Humanity has tried to bridge this separation in many ways... without success.



3. God's Remedy—the Cross

God's love bridges the gap of separation between God and humanity. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave, He paid the penalty for our sins. In the Bible, Jesus Christ says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)



4. Our Response—Receive Jesus Christ

God invites us to respond to His love by crossing the bridge through trusting Jesus Christ. This means accepting Christ's death on the cross as payment for our personal sins and receiving Him as our Savior and Lord. The Bible says, *"Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children."* (John 1:12)

The invitation is to:

Repent (turn from your sins), by faith receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life, and follow him in obedience as the Lord of your life.

What to pray:

God, I know I am a sinner. Right now I repent and turn from my sins. I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins, rose from the grave, and is alive forever. I open the door of my heart and life, receiving Jesus Christ as my Savior. I want to follow Him as Lord of my life. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

Sample of the counseling materials you will receive onsite

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

P

RESPONSE CARD

(Please circle one)



Accepted Christ



Rededicated



More Information

Preferred language: English Spanish Other _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Rev. Dr. Other

Name: _____ Age: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Male Female

Email: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian if under 18: _____

Occupation/School: _____

Do you regularly attend church? Yes No

Church name: _____

Church city: _____ State: _____

Did you come with a friend? Yes No

Friend's name: _____

Friend's phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Name of friend's church: _____

Friend's church city: _____ State: _____

For office use

Name: _____ No.: _____

FESTIVAL FRIEND REGISTRATION FORM

I am a pastor and will serve as a counseling advisor: I speak: Spanish Language: _____

Name (First/Last) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Church Name _____ Church City _____

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Pastor Rev. Dr.

Please fill out form and return it to the Fresno CityFest office or go to www.festivalfriend.com and register online.

IMPORTANT!

You **MUST** be registered in order to counsel at the festival.

Be sure to fill out the registration form to the left before you leave the training session, or make sure to register online.

Watch for counseling updates beginning in the month of March at www.festivalfriend.com.

CHECK-IN IS REQUIRED TO BE A FESTIVAL FRIEND.



For more information contact the Fresno CityFest office:
559.369.4913
info@FresnoCityFest.org
www.FresnoCityFest.org