

SAVIOR, KING, AND FRIEND

How do we talk to young children about salvation?

Jesus is my best friend! This is a popular way to frame a relationship with Jesus when we're leading preschool-age kids. It's totally true. Of course, a Christian relationship with Jesus is more than a friendship. So how can we help our youngest kids understand having a saving relationship with Jesus without spinning their brains in circles? This is where Savior, King, and Friend (SKF) language can be a super big help.

SKF language is a simple way to talk about who Jesus is, how He loves us, and who He is to us. Instead of using tricky or misleading metaphors, we talk about Christian salvation using the relational concepts of Savior, King, and Friend.

THE BASICS OF SKF



He loves us as SAVIOR

God's love for us is enormous. Jesus is proof. Jesus loves us, forgives us, and renews us. He gives us new life right now and eternal life after that. God loves us as Savior. We love Jesus the same way. He's our Savior, forgiver, and the provider of a new life. We love Jesus as our Savior.



He loves us as KING

We are God's creation. His power surrounds us. His majestic design, perfect rule, and continual attention are all over His kingdom. God loves us as King. As we embrace this love, He becomes our King. We worship, serve, and obey Him. We love Him as King.



He loves us as FRIEND

God knows us personally. He listens, grieves, comforts, and speaks with us. His love isn't over there. It's right here, right now. He loves us as Friend, and of course we love Jesus right back. We talk to Him, listen for Him, and want to spend as much time as possible with Him. We become more like Him. We love Jesus as Friend.

PRESCHOOLERS & SKF

Those are some pretty great, but pretty big concepts. Here's the great thing about using SKF language—it's foundational. It can be built on. Preschoolers can start with a basic understanding of Savior, King, and Friend and build from there. They won't grasp the depth of meaning for each of those words. But, they will understand the basic relational aspects of SKF and that's something that can be built on and developed for years.

Start using SKF language in your conversations with young kids. Use all three words together, and help them build a full understanding of a Christian relationship with Jesus. Help kids know who they are to God, and who God is to them. It's the message of salvation!

"Jesus is my Savior, King, and Friend. I'm a Christian!"