

PAPA, HOW CAN I BELIEVE IN JESUS?

12 May 2018 is an important date for us. On this special day, Jake and Jean received Christ.

That night we spoke of the topic of 'death' e.g. Why my granny had to die (she passed away in 2015), and why his new-found pet fish (he just received fondly from his uncle a couple of hours ago) will soon die. I wanted to manage his expectations so I told him that it is a matter of time before all good (living) things, including his pet fish, must die.



One question led to another and soon Jake asked me why we all have to die. I told him about sin (aka 'naughty things' as he would understand in his basic vocabulary). It didn't end with 'death'; I also reminded him about the good news and the eternal life we received if we believe Jesus and invite Him into our lives.

I was pleasantly surprised when he asked me, "Papa, how can I believe in Jesus?" This was sweet music to my ears, but to confirm what I heard, I asked if he wanted to believe in Jesus and he said "Yes". Since Jean was sitting near us and heard the entire conversation, I asked if she wanted to believe in Jesus. She said "Yes" too.

So with their tiny hands clasped, we prayed the sinner's prayer together. I was over the moon.

I didn't expect this to come so soon. As a parent, perhaps we sometimes over-think and worry unnecessarily for our kids. I tend to imagine the worst-case scenario especially when it comes to my kids, and I prepared to struggle alongside with them when it comes to their spiritual being.

God likes to surprise us – in His grace and love. He reminded me that we can only do so much. I am just a father, a steward. My children and their soul ultimately belong to God. He has a destiny with/for them. Even as it is a faith journey for them, it is no less a faith journey for me, one where I need to learn

to let go and let God. But it is not easy when it comes to my most prized possessions.

An encouragement for parents and spiritual parents: press on in sharing God's love regularly. We have to influence them or the world will influence them for us. God works in ways that are sometimes hidden to us and once in a while He throws us these pleasant surprises. Even in our imperfections (raising kids), His bountiful grace can manifest.

I would like to thank all the countless support and love showered by the teachers from Little Lamb. They have given up much of their precious Sunday time (could have joined DE, cell or other activities), but they choose to impact young lives instead through their serving.

Of course, as I write this short sharing on Mother's Day, we need to thank God for all the Mothers, and in relation to this topic, Jake's mum, Serene. May the Lord continue to sustain and guide her as she emulates the character of the noble wife in Proverbs 31.

We continue to covet your prayers for all our kids and mothers in JCC. There is still a long way to go.



Justin Tay