

Leading Children to Christ

Dr. Linda Williams

“Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Red, brown, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

I. Soul-conscious

When you see a child, do you ...

- A. Think about their clothes, surroundings, possible circumstances?
- B. Think about their soul – spending an eternity in heaven or hell

Each child you see will spend an eternity somewhere – heaven or hell. It is our responsibility to tell them about Jesus and His great love.

II. Why children?

- A. Scripture records for us in the gospels of Matthew 19, Mark 10, and Luke 18 of Jesus rebuking the disciples when they try to send the children away. The disciples thought that Jesus was too busy for the children. Luke 18:16-17 records Jesus response as “Suffer (permit) little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”
- B. Charles Spurgeon, the “Prince of Preachers,” stated that “A child of five, if properly instructed, can as truly believe and be regenerated as an adult.”
- C. Childlike Faith

How many of you were saved at an early age? (Research shows 85% professions of faith occur between the ages of 4-14) (Thomas, 2016)

- 1. Humble: Children are more easily reached than adults.
- 2. Teachable: Children are more easily taught than adults.
- 3. Dependent: Children respond more easily to a gospel presentation.
- 4. Natural Faith: They believe and are very trusting.

When a child trusts Christ, not only is a soul saved but a life is potentially saved.

Now that we established some reasons on why children are important to share the gospel with, and we realize that we must remain soul-conscious let’s look at the doctrine and method of leading a child to Christ.

Ask yourself—“do children get saved differently than adults?” The answer – they don’t get saved differently. Children get saved the same way adults get saved. The difference between leading a child to Christ and leading an adult to Christ is not the doctrine. The doctrine of salvation for children is no more or less than the doctrine of salvation for adults. For the soul-winner a good clue of an easy gospel presentation is A-B-C backwards (C-B-A).

Now before we go too much further with the doctrine, let me lay the foundation that most children get saved after being taught in a group setting. For instance – after a Sunday school lesson or morning service, during vacation Bible school, at summer camp, at a Bible club, or in Bible class. It is crucial that the gospel is clearly presented within the Bible story. After the Bible story, the invitation should be given.

III. The invitation –

- A. The process: Ask children to close their eyes and bow their head. Raising the hand or raising the eyes to look at the teacher
- B. One-on-one
 - a. Depends on the age group.
 - b. Little give verses from the Bible orally
 - c. Older, have them read the verses from scripture. If they cannot or do not wish to read, show them and read the verses for them.

d. Rom. 3:10-11; 3:23; 5:8; 5:12; 6:23; 10:9; 10:13; I John 5:13

IV. **The Doctrine** (no different from any individual coming to Christ—keep it simple)

- Set aside a time to speak with the child or children
 1. Confess
 - a. What is sin?
 - b. Who sins? – Romans 3:23 (For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God)
 - c. What is the consequence because of our sin? Hell, separation from God, punishment
 2. Believe
 - a. Who took the punishment for our sin? Jesus when He died on the cross.
 - b. Acts 16:31 – Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.
 - c. Do you believe that Jesus took your punishment?
 3. Ask
 - a. Romans 10:13 -- Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
 - b. Not the words that are said that bring salvation but the faith of the child (Eph 2:8-9)
Give the child the opportunity to pray and accept Christ as his personal Savior.
Conclude with a prayer and a verse for assurance (I John 5:13, Heb. 13:5)

V. **The Methods**

If the doctrine of salvation is not different between children and adults, what is different? The methods. Let's discuss some of the do's and don'ts of leading a child to Christ.

The don'ts:

1. Don't forget that you (the leader) are **HUMAN** – not the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
 - a. Don't insist the child get saved now. – false profession by over-eager evangelists.
 - b. Don't use fear – (Lazarus and the Rich Man)
 - c. Don't forget that children usually desire to please adults – raising their hands, coming forward
Many times, children who accept Christ as their personal Savior at an early age struggle with assurance of salvation later in life. Make sure you are not pressuring them to accept Christ just to be a number in the bulletin; it is more important that their name is truly written down in the Lamb's Book of Life.
2. Don't merely ask **leading questions**.
 - a. Children will usually try to answer the question what they think an adult will want to hear. To check their true understanding, avoid yes and no questions.
 - 1.) Poor questions:
 - a.) "You all know that you are sinners going to hell, don't you?"
 - b.) "You know that Christ died for your sins, don't you?"
 - c.) "You know that trusting Christ you will be saved from hell and on your way to heaven, right?"
 - 2.) Better questions:
 - a. Have you ever asked Jesus to be your Savior before? When?
 - a.) What is sin?
 - b.) Do you do that?
 - c.) What does God think about that?
3. Don't use confusing **terminology**.
 - a. Most the time children are literal minded so you will want to avoid certain phrases.
- Story – a little girl crying because her teacher was listing things that wouldn't be in heaven – amongst the list were doctors. The little girl cried because she wanted her daddy to be in heaven, but he was a doctor. – (no illness in heaven would be better)
 - 1.) "getting Jesus in your heart" – He doesn't go down your throat, and into your chest to the heart that pumps the blood.
 - 2.) "Jesus shed His blood" – He didn't shed like a dog.
 - 3.) Don't use terms they will not understand unless you explain: Propitiation, omniscient, bear your sins (they are picturing an animal)
- b. When talking about heaven, be sure to mention that they will go to heaven *someday*. Children want to go to heaven, but not right now (especially if Christmas is approaching, their birthday is coming up, etc....)

c. Be careful not to change your terminology throughout as this might cause confusion.

- 1.) Believing in Jesus 4.) Born again
- 2.) Trusting in Jesus 5.) Ask Jesus into your heart
- 3.) Be saved. 6.) Salvation

You and I know they are all the same, but a child now thinks there are 6 ways to be saved.

4. Don't forget the **FOUNDATION** of our (the child's) faith: **THE WORD OF GOD**
 - a. Use Scripture in your presentation – God's Word is quick, powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword. God's Word will not return void.
 - b. Don't overuse it though – If the gospel was presented well in the lesson, the invitation should not rehash the entire story. Focus on the main points – C, B, A
 - c. At the end, ask the child what he/she just did. Use a scripture verse to show the child the promise from God's word that he or she is saved. (e.g. I John 5:13 or Acts 16:31) You don't tell the child they are saved, he/she needs to tell you what he/she did.
 - d. The Bible will be around and available to them long after you or I have left.
5. Don't think your job is over when a **profession** is made.
 - a. Possibly give the child a Bible.
 - b. Write down the salvation date.
 - c. Encourage them to share that he/she was saved with a few people
 - d. Invite them to Sunday school and church
 - e. Help them realize they are still a sinner. – *I John 1:9* Will have to ask God to forgive sins even after saved, but don't have to be saved again.

Do's

1. Do be **available** and **approachable**.
 - a. Sunday school – rush into class late or dash out as soon as it's over – talk to students
 - b. Camp leaders/Bible club – fellowshipping with other adults or playing all the time – spend one on one time with campers/clubbers
 - c. Take time to discipline yourself to display the attitude of availability – genuine love, acceptance, relaxed, friendly contacts
2. Do check the **comprehension** of salvation.
 - a. Don't be so concerned with numbers that you don't check their understanding
 - b. Draw the information out of the child – ask the child how he believes a person or his friend can get to heaven
 - c. They do not have to be a theologian, but make sure they understand the basic doctrine – if not explain and follow the Holy Spirit's leading
3. Do stress the **urgency** of salvation & use the same term all the way through (saved, born again, etc.).
 - a. II Corinthians 6:2 – “now is the day of salvation”
 - b. Remind them we do not have the promise of tomorrow
4. Do encourage the child to **communicate** with Jesus.
 - a. If Christ is properly presented in communicating the gospel, it will be natural for the child to communicate with Him.
 - b. Share what the child would pray to God for: health, food, friends, family, etc.
5. Do pray for the children you have contact with.
 - a. If they are not ready, pray for their comprehension and salvation.
 - b. If they are saved, pray for their growth. Matt: 19:14

For years, you have heard that you are the next generation. It is now time that you begin reaching the generation that will come after you. Sometimes you will plant the seed, other times the Lord will use you to water, and God allows you to see an increase in His kingdom.

Be faithful. Will you be soul-conscious? The harvest is ready!

Reference

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- Spurgeon, Charles. (2009). *Come Ye Children: Practical Help telling Children about Jesus*.
Thomas, Abb, (2016). *Sharing Christ with Children*. Ohio: Thomas Ministries.