

What Is Child Evangelism?

- **Evangelism** is declaring the good news of the gospel.
- **Child evangelism** is sharing with a child the good news of how to receive the full forgiveness of God by entering into a personal relationship with Christ Jesus.

*“People were bringing little children to Jesus
for him to place his hands on them,
but the disciples rebuked them.*

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.

*He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,*

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’

*... He took the children in his arms,
placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*

(Mark 10:13–16)

What Is the Gospel?

- **The Gospel** is the good message of salvation available to us through faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross.

*“By this gospel you are saved. ... Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures ... he was buried ...*

*he was raised on the third day according to
the Scriptures, and ... he appeared to Cephas [Peter],*

*and then to the Twelve. After that,
he appeared to more than five hundred.”*

(1 Corinthians 15:2–6)

Children Are Ready to Hear the Gospel When They Are ...

Reaping consequences from their own behavior

Expressing worry about the future

Asking a lot of questions

Drastically changing their behavior

Yielding to positive authority

Children’s Responsiveness

Children have ...

Curiosity

- Children eagerly ask questions about everything. What an opportunity to answer questions correctly with the truth of God’s Word!

Humility

- Children are accustomed to being under authority; therefore, they are teachable.

Imagination

- Children are able to visualize the unseen.

Less distrust

- Children find it easy to believe in the supernatural.

Dependency

- Children are already dependent on adults for protection and provisions.

Retentive memories

- Children can retain what they don’t understand more easily than adults.

Eagerness to receive gifts

- Children find it more natural to receive a gift without feeling they have to earn it.

No hardened hearts

- Children do not have such deeply embedded sin patterns, addictions, or beliefs that they can’t give up their “old ways of life.”

“Even small children are known by their actions.”

(Proverbs 20:11)

Answering Arguments against Sharing Christ with a Child

- **Argument:** “I don’t think my child is a sinner.”
Answer: All people inherit a sin nature, a natural bent to sin. (Psalm 58:3)
- **Argument:** “Children can’t understand abstract truth.”
Answer: Children can understand dependency, being dependent on parents. Dependence on Christ is necessary for every child to become a true Christian. (John 15:4)
- **Argument:** “As an adult I never learned how to share the good news about salvation.”
Answer: As an adult, you can now learn. It’s never too late to learn. (Deuteronomy 6:6–7)
- **Argument:** “I don’t want to be a part of anything where fear tactics are used to get children to respond.”
Answer: Just because negative tactics have been used by some people doesn’t mean that child evangelism should be rejected. Jesus did not hinder children from coming to Him. (Mark 10:14)
- **Argument:** “I feel too inadequate.”
Answer: The Holy Spirit is the One who is adequate. He will empower you to speak the truth. God gives every authentic Christian the Holy Spirit upon salvation. (John 16:13)

Root Cause for Parents’ Not Sharing

- **Wrong Belief:** “I’ll leave it to the church to give my child the necessary spiritual instruction.”
Right Belief: “I have the God-given responsibility to prepare my child spiritually to accept Jesus personally as Savior and Lord.”

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”
(Colossians 3:16)

Key Verse to Memorize

“He [Jesus] said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’”
(Matthew 18:3)

Key Passage to Read

Psalm 78:2–7

Practical Ps for Preparing a Child’s Heart

- **Portray** the character of Christ. (Titus 2:7-8)
- **Praise** God in the presence of your child for specific blessings. (Psalm 34:1)
- **Play** and sing Christian songs with your child. (Psalm 66:1–2)
- **Place** pictures and plaques with a spiritual emphasis throughout your home. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)
- **Provide** a regular time to read and talk about Scripture—a daily, family devotional time. (2 Timothy 3:14-15)
- **Prepare** Scripture memory verses on cutout forms or cards. (Psalm 119:11)
- **Pray** out loud with and for your child. (Colossians 1:9-10)
- **Prioritize** regular, spiritual programs for your child. (Proverbs 22:6)
- **Play** creative games that bring God into focus. (3 John 4.)]

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”
(2 Timothy 1:5)

How to Present the Good News

God

“God created everything in this world, including you. He loves you and will always love you.” (Genesis 1:1)

Original Sin

“There is a problem between you and God, and it is called sin. Sin is anything you think or do that does not please God. Sin is going your own way instead of God’s way.” (Psalm 51:5)

Offering for Sin

“Jesus came from heaven to earth, lived in a body and grew ... just like you and I grow.” (John 3:16)

Death and Resurrection

“The Lord Jesus Christ died for your sins, but He also did something no one else has ever done—He came back to life!” (1 Corinthians 15:3–8)

Need

“We all need a Savior because our sin is a problem.”
(John 3:17–18)

Eternal Life

“God’s part is found in three promises to us.”

- “We will not be condemned to hell for our sins.”
(Romans 8:1)
- “We will live forever in heaven.” (John 11:26)
- “Meanwhile, God will cause us to live a different kind of life now while we live on earth.” (Philippians 1:6)

Word of God

“The Bible was supernaturally written by God.”
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Salvation Prayer

“God invites us all to come to Him.”

- Give an invitation for the child to receive Christ.
- Remind them again of their need for a Savior. (Isaiah 53:6)
- Review what Christ has done. (1 Peter 3:18)
- “Would you like Jesus to be your personal Lord and Savior?”
(Romans 10:9)

“Dear God,

I know I do things You tell me not to do,
and You call that sin.
I realize that my sin has separated me from You.
Please forgive me for my sins.
Lord Jesus, thank You for taking the punishment
that I should have had—
You paid the price for my sins
by dying on the cross for me.
Right now I ask You to come into my life
to be my Lord and my Savior.
I want to be what You want me to be.
And I want to do what You want me to do.
Amen.”

Salvation is a supernatural work of God. You are not responsible for the salvation of any person, adult or child. Your responsibility is tilling the soil and sharing the seeds of truth about the Savior. As you plant seeds, pray that your child’s soil becomes fertile to receive the seed, take root, and bear fruit.

—June Hunt

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