

Sharing the Gospel with Children

“Bringing Into Clear Focus What Really Matters”

(Taken from Fowler, Larry. *Rock-Solid Kids* (2004). AWANA CLUBS International. Gospel Light, Ventura, CA.)

I. The Gospel Defined

- ❑ Romans 1:16 (NIV) – “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”
- ❑ The Gospel is God’s power to save us from our sins and bring us into right relationship with Him
- ❑ NO Gospel, NO Power – that simple!!

II. What Makes Up The Gospel?

- ❑ All three aspects below are necessary for a child to come to salvation



- ❑ All three MUST be communicated well
 - ❑ All three MUST be communicated accurately
 - ❑ All three MUST be communicated repeatedly
- ❑ Trust in the convicting work of the Holy Spirit is essential
- ❑ Prayer in God’s Work to change child’s spirit is vital

III. Foundational Truths

- ❑ **Who God Is** (creator, holy, loving, just, etc.) – Exodus 34: 5-7
- ❑ **What God Demands (sinless perfection)-Habak. 1:13; Matt. 5:48**
- ❑ **Who We Are (created, God’s image, sinful)-Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 5:8**
- ❑ **What Will Happen to Us All** (eternity in heaven or hell)-John 14:1-4; 2 Thess. 1:8-9
- ❑ **Who Jesus Is** (Creator, God’s Son, sacrifice for our sins)- John 1:1-4, 14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 2:2, 4:10;Rom. 3:25-26; Heb 9:26-28

III. The Gospel

- ❑ **Jesus Christ is the Gospel!! John 3:16; 1 John 2:11-12**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- I. God loved us –Gave His Son**
- II. If We Believe in Christ –Eternal Life**
- III. Know Jesus, Know Life; No Jesus, No Life**
- IV. His Death (His Sacrifice for Our Sins)**
- V. His Burial (His Humanity)**
- VI. His Resurrection (His Deity)**
- VII. According to the Scriptures (God’s Plan)**

IV. How MUST a Child Respond?

- **Its NOT a formula – but a response of TRUST in Jesus**
- **Faith that saves MUST be in the Person and work of Jesus (John 3:16; 3:36; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9,10,13; John 14:6, Acts 4:12; John 5:24)**
 - I. Cannot be belief in God – James 2:19**
 - I. Cannot be faith in Action – Ephesians 2:8,9**
 - II. It IS TRUST in Jesus – Trust is active verb of faith; trust is reliance and confidence in Jesus to take away our sins and place us in heaven with HIM**
 - III. Requires repentance as aspect of that TRUST – Acts 3:19; Acts 2:38**
 - **Repent=absolutely change mind/direction**
 - **Repentance defines saving faith further**
 - **Real sorrow and remorse for rebellion/sins**
 - **Like meat-eater makes life conversion to vegetarian or Communist becoming Libertarian**
 - **Repentance leads to changed spirit, trust in Jesus**

Sharing the Gospel with Children

- Rarely is there “single contact” evangelism – they need to hear the message repeatedly, accurately, and completely
 - **Clean up your Vocabulary** – What words we use are taken literally by children who are concrete thinkers. If you ask a child to have Jesus come into their hearty, they may wonder if they need surgery to get Him in there! For phrases to not use, see accompanying handout from bible.org.
 - **Don’t forget to talk about Calvary and the Cross** – “We are all sinners and lost from God. Would you like to accept Jesus now?” –No death on cross for our sins
 - **Hiding Gospel with unclear invitation methods** – “Pray right now and have Jesus come into your heart” –What should the child do? Pray? Open mouth?

- **Hiding Gospel by connecting faith with specific actions** – “Raise your hand if you want Jesus” –What child would not raise his/her hand? What does raising hand have to do with repentance and faith/trust in Christ?
- Make sure you share the following eight truths repeatedly and accurately, then let the Holy Spirit do the work of conversion:

I. God is holy (perfect and without sin)

II. We are sinners

III. There is punishment for sin –death and eternal separation from God’s love

IV. God loves us

V. Jesus dies on the cross and rose again

VI. His death paid our punishment for our sin

VII. If we trust in what Jesus did on the cross, our sins are forgiven

VIII. God will give us eternal life.

- **Practical Guidelines:**

- **Be Biblically accurate in choice of terms**
- **Never let a physical actions or set of words/phraseology be considered part of salvation to child**
- **Let the child tell you and seek you out to let you know what he/she wants to do**
- **Watch for responses that might be motivated only by desire to please adults/peers**