

Leading Children to Christ

I. Your Story

-Be able to communicate your testimony clearly

A. The three handles

1. BC=Before Christian
2. Conversion=When you became a Christian
3. AD=After you became a Christian

B. Exercise: Your story using the three handles with a partner (5 minutes each).

1. BC-Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ and how did that affect your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships.
2. BC-What caused you to begin considering God/Christ?
 1. Conversion- what realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?
 2. Conversion- Specifically, how did you receive Christ? What did you do?
1. AD- how did you life begin to change after you trusted Christ?
2. AD- Are there any other benefits you have experienced since becoming a Christian?



II. Communicating with Children

A. Dynamics to consider:

1. Children understand concrete vs. abstract terms/language.
2. Children are at different developmental levels.
3. Children are receptive to a story they can relate to or picture.
4. Children might focus on or be distracted by a single detail of a story.

B. Memory Tool:

- K Keep it clear and simple
- I Invite participation
- D Don't focus too much on your past sins
- S Smile

C. An example of Gospel Explanation (Less than 2 Minutes because that's their attention span)

Do you remember how God can do everything and see everything? Well, that means He can see all the things we do, even the things that aren't nice. He also knows when we are saying stuff that isn't nice, and even when we're not thinking nice things. All of that really disappoints God because He doesn't think it's okay for us to do anything wrong. Can you imagine all the wrong stuff you or I do – no matter if we get caught or not – it means we should be in a lot of

trouble. So much trouble that one-day when we die, we wouldn't be allowed in heaven. That would be sad, wouldn't it?

But that's where Jesus helps us out. He never did anything wrong, but He still agreed to get in trouble with God for all the things that we did wrong. It's like He agreed to take all the spankings and time-outs for what other people had done. Can you imagine how many that would be? Do you know how He had to do it? He had to actually die hanging on a cross. But He didn't stay dead, which is how He can be with us today. And the real good news is that what He did will count for all the bad things you and I do, if we just ask Him to forgive us and to be our friend, helping us figure out how to do good stuff.

D. Your story again, using key questions:

1. BC- is this a condition, lifestyle, etc. a child can relate to?
2. BC- will a child be able to leave you sins or lifestyle in the past?
3. Conversion- Is it clear that I did something?
4. Conversion- Is what I did clear and applicable to a child (understood)?
5. AD-Is the change or impact Christ has made on me simple to understand?
6. AD- Are the positive benefits to being a Christian clear?

E. Exercise with partner. Re tell your story, as if to a child. (5 minutes each)

III. The Early Years

A. Reaching young kids

1. In one-on-one situations, we can communicate God's truth and God's love to children.
2. Truth should be in very simple words they will understand and be able to say.
3. For communicating God's love, non-verbal expression plays a key role.
4. We can begin by helping children make a connection between their world and God.

"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him?" Romans 10:14

B. Memory tool:

- L Let them hear you say simple words of God's truth
- U Use non-verbal opportunities to express God's love
- B Begin making a connection between their world and God

C. Exercise: Write your ideas for clear, simple words of truth and connection you can communicate to children, using four words or less for each. (10 minutes).

IV. His story, The Gospel

A. The four components of the gospel message:

1. God Holy and perfect, loving, and just God
2. Us All sinful and deserve death
3. Christ Died for our substitute
4. You (and I) we must ask Jesus in our lives

B. Exercise: Write an appropriate child-centered wording for each term below. (15 minutes)

1. Sin
2. Punishment
3. Crucify
4. Savior
5. Resurrection
6. Ask Jesus into your heart
7. Leadership or be Lord

C. Answers:

1. Not nice, wrong things
2. Get in trouble, time-out, get spanked, etc.
3. Died on a cross
4. Someone who agrees to be in trouble for you
5. Didn't stay dead
6. Ask Him to forgive you and always be your friend

7. Follow what Jesus says; ask Him for help to do the right thing.

D. Now you try another example of a child-centered gospel explanation (15 minutes).

V. Crossing the line

A. Prompt them to:

1. Ask for God's forgiveness for all the wrong things you have done.

2. Ask for Christ's leadership in your life. Give thanks!

B. Example:

A Admit your sins and ask forgiveness

B Believe in Jesus

C Choose to follow Jesus

It's as easy as ABC!

C. Follow up with child and parent