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Principle And Practice
Of
Child Evangelism



HELPING THE CHILD TO KNOW JESUS

Every human being needs help. Children, because of their stage of development are very dependent; as a result they need help, most especially in spiritual things.

To effectively help the child to know Jesus the teacher should bear in mind the following things:-

- i. The child on his own is helpless and lost. He cannot come to the Lord by himself. Matt. 18:11; Rom. 10:14.
- ii. The method and approach should be simple & uncomplicated. Isaiah 28:9-10.
- iii. The Holy Spirit is well able to help the child to come to the knowledge of salvation if we allow Him.
- iv. The child would understand faster if we use visual aids and practical things and examples related with the child's background and environment.
- v. Naturally, children are open to new things and are willing to learn so long as the lesson is not too long or boring.

1. TEACH THE CHILD ABOUT GOD AND HEAVEN

- A. Tell the child about God
 - He is Love - John 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:16,19
 - He is the creator. Gen. 1:1,26-27.
 - He is the author of the Bible. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - He is Holy. Lev. 19:2.
- B. Tell the child about heaven and what the Bible says about it.
 - God's home. Eccl. 5:2.
 - No darkness or death. Rev. 21:4,21.
 - No sickness or sorrow. Rev. 21:4.

2. EXPOSE THE CHILD TO HIS/HER SINFUL NATURE.

The child needs to know where he now stands, that:-

- He is born in sin - Ps. 51:5; Rom 3:23; Isaiah 53:6.
- He cannot save himself. Rom.10:13.
- God has made provision for his salvation. John 3:16.
- He would die in sin and go to hell if he does not accept Christ, John 8:24; Rom6:23.

NOTE: Give practical examples of sin e.g., anger (Eph.4:29), bad words (Eph.4:29), disobedience (2 Tim.3:2; James 4:17), fighting (Gal.5:26), lying (Col.3:9), stealing (Eph.4:28).

3. TEACH THE WAY OF SALVATION

By letting the child know that God having created heaven is not just satisfied living there with His beautiful angels, but He is interested in our coming to join Him there some day.

- Our sins have to be taken away - Heb. 12:14.
- He sent Jesus Christ in order to save us. John 1:14.
- Jesus suffered and died to pay the price for our sins. Rom. 5:6,8.
- He arose three days later, and ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us. Matt. 28:1-4; John 14:1-4.

4. CHALLENGE THE CHILD TO MAKE A DECISION OF ACCEPTANCE

Here is your opportunity to challenge the child to make a new decision not to live in sin again but receive God's help by:

- Acknowledging all his sins before God -Rom. 10:9.
- Repenting and turning away from sin. Lk. 13:3.
- Opening his heart for Jesus to come in (Rev.3:20).

5. ASSURE THE CHILD OF HIS NEW LIFE

Now that the child has accepted Christ, let the child know:-

- He is now God's child - John 1:12.
- Jesus now lives in him - Rev. 3:20.
- His name is written in heaven - Lk. 10:20.

Ensure that the above Bible promises for assurance of salvation are clearly and repeatedly taught at this stage.

6. ENCOURAGE THE CHILD TO GROW

At this stage, the child should be taught and established in the habit of regular Bible study and prayer so he can grow. 1 Peter 2:2.

Time should be spent in letting him know most of the things to avoid and the things to covet in order for him to grow in the Lord. e.g.,

THINGS TO AVOID:

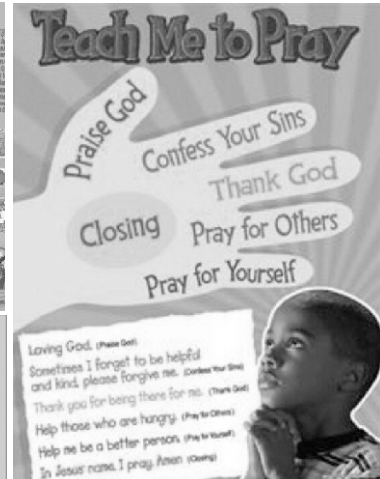
- Saying things he is not too sure about.
- Reading immoral books.
- Going to, or being with friends who will make him sin against God - Ps. 1:1-3.
- Watching bad Television Programmes and movies etc.

THINGS TO COVET:

- Prayers
- Fellowship
- Bible Study
- Sharing his new faith
- Bringing his friends to the Bible Club.
- Giving in support of God's work.
- Helping those in need.
- Obedience to God's word, and to authority such as parents and teachers.



INTRODUCTION TO THE MATERIALS USED IN HELPING CHILDREN TO KNOW JESUS



Judging from the nature of children, it goes without saying that they need a lot of help in understanding new ideas.

It is pertinent therefore that they be given all the necessary assistance especially where spiritual or abstract things are involved. Hence the need for the under mentioned aids.

1. PICTURES

Relevant and attractive pictures used at appropriate times are invaluable in helping children understand spiritual concepts, e.g. Jesus the good shepherd.

2. THE CROSS

The cross is a universal Christian symbol even though its use is not limited to true Christians alone. The picture of the cross can be used when teaching about salvation, Christian suffering, sacrifice, etc.

3. THE WORDLESS BOOK

The wordless book is a book without words but has colours. The first 2 pages are golden, the second 2 pages are black or dark, the third 2 pages are red, the fourth 2 pages are white, the last 2 pages are green. While the cover pages are blue. In using the book, you have to start from the first 2 pages, onto the cover pages.

Each of the colours of the book has a scriptural significance.

i. Gold.....Heaven..... Jn. 14:1-15.

ÿ Enumerate things not found in Heaven:

Temple or Church - Rev.21:22

Sun and Moon - Rev.21:23

Sin - Rev. 21:27

Medicine, sickness - Rev. 21:4

Death - Rev. 21:4

Candles - Rev. 22:5.

ÿ Things in Heaven:
God - Rev. 22:3
Angels - Rev. 5:11

Lamb's Book of Life - Rev.21:27
Streets of Gold - Rev.21:19-21
Tree of Life - Rev.22:2

Mansions - Jn. 14:2
Lord Jesus - Rev.22:4

li. DarkSin.....Prov.14:19; Rom.3:23; 6:23.
lii. Red.....Blood.....Jn.1:7b; Heb.9:22;
1 Cor.15:3

lv. White.....Cleansing.....Ps.51:7,10;
1 Cor.15:57.

Invitation.....Rev.3:20

Forgiveness.....1 John 1:9.

Assurance.....Heb.13:5b

v. Green.....Growth.....2 Pet.3:18; 1 Pet.2:2.
vi. Blue.....2nd Coming of Christ & Holy Spirit
is our helperAct 1:7.

4. THE GOSPEL CAP

This has the five colours of the wordless Book and it is used in the same way.

5. THE GOSPEL HAND

Thumb - God loves me
(Jn. 3:16; 10:10)

Index Finger .. I have sinned
(Rom. 3:23; 6:23)

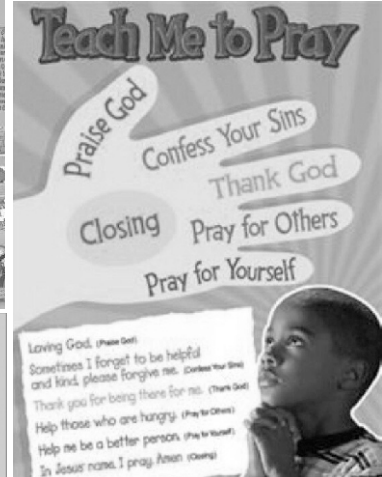
Middle Finger .. The Blood of Jesus
(1 Cor. 16:3-4)Jesus died and came alive
for me.

Ring Finger .. New Life .. I receive Him
(Eph. 2:8-9; Jn. 1:12)Confession (Rom.
10:9)

Little Finger.. I am saved . Assurance (Heb.
13:5b)



INTRODUCTION TO THE MATERIALS USED IN HELPING CHILDREN TO KNOW JESUS



6. MAPS AND DIAGRAMS.

Some of the Bibles have maps and diagrams of the Holy land at the last pages. What are the meant for? As we study them we have a better understanding of the Bible stories. These are good for the teenagers.

Any other materials that are appropriate, as the situation demands, may be used.

7. SONGS:

8. STORIES:

These may not necessarily be stories from the Bible, but folktales, Missionary stories, and others like , Rat story and Audu's stories, used to teach Biblical truth.

9. YOU:

The teacher/Parents. Children learn more from what you are than what you teach. They will follow your example than your advice. Since they will likely become who you are, be who you want them to be.

CONCLUSION:

These and other materials are to aid/help the children's minister in his ministry and not to replace him. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts and convinces the child and not the materials.





GIVING THE INVITATION



After presenting the gospel, the unsaved child should be challenged to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. (One might be led by the Holy Spirit to give salvation invitation after a song or memory verse that touches on salvation). The way of salvation must have been clearly presented. Then the unsaved child is encouraged to receive the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. He must be given the opportunity to do so. That salvation is a gift must be clearly taught from the scriptures.

Salvation is a free gift from God in Jesus Christ. When the child receives the Lord Jesus, that gift of salvation becomes his. The listed scriptures make it clear that a sinful man is saved purely by grace (Rom. 6:23; Eph.2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

God finished the work on the cross of calvary. He would expect the child to receive the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Some Verses recommended for giving the invitation:

One common characteristic of these verses is the condition the child fulfills (hearing, receiving and believing), and the promise God gives (salvation is made available).

TEXT	CONDITION	PROMISE
John 1:12;	If you belief	Become God's son
3:16;	Whosoever belief	Shall not perish
Acts 16:31;	Belief on the Lord	Jesus Shall be saved
Rom.10:13;	Whosoever belief	Shall be saved
Isaiah 1:18;	Come let's reason	Sin white as snow
Rev. 3:20	If you open the door	Jesus will come in

Note the following points:

- Use only one of the invitation verses for each lesson.
- Let the child close his eyes to ascertain that he did not opt to receive the Lord Jesus because he saw others do so.
- Do not force it on the child, pray for the Holy Spirit's conviction. To give the invitation you may follow this pattern ".....Now close your eyes and let us pray. If you have not received the Lord Jesus before as your own Saviour, and you want to do so today, show me by raising your hand."

d. Do not use this phrases at all. 'If you want to give your life to Christ' 'My son, give me your heart (Prov23:26) does not make reference to an unbeliever. God want every unbeliever to receive the free gift of salvation without giving anything in return (Eph.2:8-9).

e. Do not use more than one phrase at a time e.g. 'If you want Jesus to be your friend'. 'If you want Jesus to come into your heart'. etc.

f. The time of invitation is not the time to expand your message

g. Make your invitation clear and brief.

PRAYER

Lead the child in the prayer of acceptance You can choose any of the patterns below:

1. The children who raised their hands receive directions from you on what to pray (He should pray sincerely from his heart) e.g.

Teacher: Tell the Lord Jesus you are a sinner.

Child: Lord Jesus, I am a sinner.

Teacher: That you believe Jesus died and arose again for you.

Child: I believe Jesus died and rose again for me.

Teacher: Confess your sins to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you.

(Child confesses and asks for forgiveness)

Teacher: Ask the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and save you from sin.

Child: Come into my heart Lord Jesus and save me from sin.

2. The child may be repeating prayers after you (sincerely from his heart) e.g.

Teacher: Dear Lord Jesus

(Teacher, explain one invitation verse, e.g. Rev. 3:20; let child know that Jesus will not make noise when He comes in. He is a Spirit. He should receive Him by faith).

Child: Dear Lord Jesus.

Teacher: I am sorry I have sinned.

Child: I am sorry I have sinned.

Teacher: Dear Lord forgive me all my sins.

Child: Dear Lord Jesus forgive me all my sins.

Teacher: Lord Jesus come into my heart.

Child: Dear Lord Jesus come into my heart.

3. The child may be asked to pray in his or her own words.



GIVE SALVATION INVITATION AFTER GOSPEL MESSAGE



**PRAYER OF
ACCEPTANCE**

Immediately after

**ASSURANCE OF
SALVATION**



If need be

**COUNSEL CHILD
BEFORE PRAYER
OF ACCEPTANCE**

If already received
Christ

**ASSURE HIM
OF SALVATION
(Deal with any sin)**



ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Introduction:

Lack of assurance is one of the factors that makes children to repeatedly answer alter call. Lack of assurance is a situation where a child doubts his salvation.

In their (children) words: "I thought I was saved but I am not sure any longer." "I was told I am saved but I am not sure if I am truly saved." Unless a child is sure of his/her salvation, spiritual growth will be difficult.

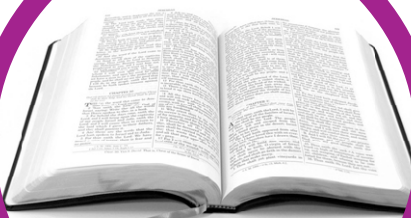
Assurance of salvation is a state when a child no longer doubt his salvation. He believes that he is saved because the Bible says so. It involves depending on the promises of God by faith.

Scriptural verses that teach assurance should be used for the child.

1. Jesus promised to come into the heart of every child who believes in Him. Rev. 3:20.
2. Whosoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ is translated from the kingdom of hell to the Kingdom of God. Col.1:13.
3. Jesus promised never to leave such a person. Heb.13:5b; John 14:18.
4. God promised to keep anybody who believes in Jesus Christ. John 10:28-29.
5. A believer in Christ has been made a child of God. John 1:12.
6. Because he has accepted Christ, he now has a guardian angel. Matt. 18:10; Psalm 34:7; 91:11.

A child who has not accepted the Lord belongs to the devil's kingdom. As he comes to accept Christ through the cross, he is automatically translated to the Kingdom of God.

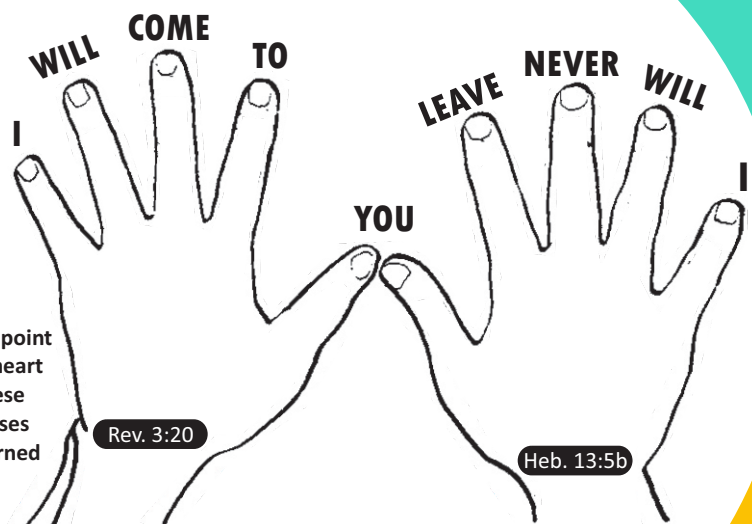
Let the child know that he can only retain his assurance of salvation as he daily trusts God by claiming these by faith and applying them personally to his life.



God's Word is the KEY



Thumbs point to the heart as these promises are learned



BIBLICAL SURVEY ON CHILD EVANGELISM



THE BIBLE & CHILD EVANGELISM

God has always made provision for the fulfillment of His eternal plan prominent among which is the salvation of the world. The child is important in the fulfillment of this revealed will of God.

The Bible, being the book containing the whole will of God, is the only appropriate book for us to turn to in examining this all important topic of child evangelism.

It would be very difficult in one discussion to know all that the Bible has to say about children. This discussion is therefore limited only to the basic facts which we will now look at in stages.

1. Children have always played an important role in the plan of God.

- a. The Israelites were given specific instructions to train their children in the way of God. There was a two-fold reward for obedience (Deut. 6:1-7).
 - (1) Things would go well.
 - (2) The nation would increase mightily.
- b. God chose Abraham as a covenant partner on the basis of Abraham's willingness to train his offspring (Gen.18:19).
- c. God used children who knew Him to accomplish His will on the earth.
 - (1) Jesus as a child of twelve taught in the temple - Luke 2:40-46.
 - (2) David as a child delivered Israel by killing a giant (1 Sam.17:1-58).
 - (3) The testimony of Naaman's wife's maid led Naaman to receive his healing (2 Kings 5:1-

4).

- (4) As a boy, Samuel was visited by the Lord, who discussed with him the judgment that would fall on Eli's house (1 Sam.3:12).
- (5) Rhoda the little damsel was able to recognize Peter's voice even when others disbelieved (Acts 12:12-17).

2. Jesus spent a great part of His Ministry in helping children.

- (a) He raised the 12 years old daughter of Jairus from the dead (Mark 5:22-43).
- (b) He cast devils out of two children (a girl and a boy) (Matt.15:21-28; 17:14-18).
- (c) He taught that kindness to children is rewarded by God (Matt.10:42).
- (d) He taught His disciples to respect children and not to offend them (Matt.18:1-14).
- (e) He took a child in His arms and blessed him (Matt.19:13-15).
- (f) Children surrounded Jesus with praise in the Temple (Matt.21:14-16).
- (g) Jesus wept over the children of Jerusalem for He knew that the Romans would destroy the nation in A.D. 70. The children of His day would face the destruction caused by their parents.

3. God Has Ordained Only Two Institutions To Train Children

- a. The Church has a commission to train all, including children (Matt.28:20; John 21:15)
- b. The family is instructed to train children thoroughly at home (Prov. 22:6; 13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14; 29:15,17; Eph.6:4).

4. God Gives Promises To And For Children

- a. The ministry of children is to obey their



parents. (Eph.6:1-3; Col.3:20). These are the only instruction in the New Testament given specifically to children.

- b. Our children will be filled with peace and safety if properly taught God's word (Isaiah 54:13).
- c. God said He would pour out His Spirit upon our sons and daughters (Joel 2:28).
- d. God promised to hear the prayers of parents for their children (Jeremiah 31:15-17).

NOTE: The Church will never reach its full potential until it seriously embarks on ministry to children.

From the Old Testament through the New, the scriptures reveal much about the mind of God concerning the subject of Child Evangelism.

1) God Instituted it.

God instituted child evangelism about 3,000 years ago when the Israelites were in the wilderness. Deut.6:4-9; Gen. 18:17,19.

2) God Commanded it.

As a matter of command, God instructed the Israelites to teach their children the way of the Lord. This they were to do diligently. (Deut.31:11-13), Psalms 78:1-8

3) There were children who knew the Lord and pleased Him by their lives.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| (A) Timothy | (2 Timothy 1:1-5) |
| (b) Rhoda | (Acts 12:13-16) |
| (c) Moses | (Heb. 11:24-25) |
| (d) Naaman's wife's maid | (2 Kings 5:2-3) |
| (e) Samuel | (1 Samuel 3:1-11) |
| (f) Josiah | (2 Chro. 34) |
| (g) Joash | (2 Chro. 24). |

4) The biblical injunction in Prov. 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it," encourages child evangelism.

5) God's Principles:

By God's formula, children were to be taught:-

- (a) **(At home)** "When thou sittest in thine house"
- (b) **(At bed time)** "When thou liest down"
- (c) **(Outside the home)** "When thou walkest by the way"
- (d) **(In the morning)** "When thou riseth up"

This implies the use of visual aids such as fingers, posters and other visualized instructional materials.

6) Consequences of Neglect:

Many examples abound of some fathers of old who failed to obey God's command (Deut. 6:4-9). The consequences were great

Such were:-

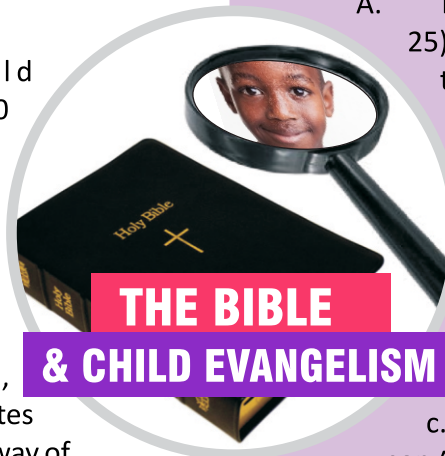
- A. Eli, the Priest (1 Samuel 2:12-25). His sons were sons of Belial, they knew not the Lord, committing fornication and adultery.

- b. Samuel (1 Samuel 8:1-6). His children walked not in his ways: they took bribes and perverted justice.

- c. King David (2 Samuel 15). His son Absalom revolted against him.

- d. King Solomon (1 Kings 12:1-15). His son Rehoboam neglected the counsel of his father's advisers and spoke to them after the counsel of the young men he grew up with.

- e. Lot - His two daughters took after the pleasures of the world and tricked their father into impregnating them. (Gen.19:30-38).





Why Child Evangelism?

1. God loves children: Children are very special to God. They are mentioned 1,957 times in the Bible. They are God's heritage (Ps.127:3). God's love for the world includes children and He wants them to be saved (John 3:16).
2. God's command: God's express command is to "train up a child in the way he should go (Prov.22:6) and to teach them diligently (Deut.6:7). Children are also included in the Great Commission (Mk.16:15; Matt.28:19; Mk.10:14). In essence the responsibility of the Child's Growth, Development and Survival is on the adult.
3. Children are sinners: "We are sinners not because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners (Ps.51:5; 58:3; Rom.3:23). Children need to be saved from the consequence of sin which is everlasting death (Lk.19:10; Rom.6:23).
4. Children are very receptive to the word of God. They are humble and have a teachable heart. A child's mind/heart at birth is a complete "Tabula rasa" (clean slate) that grows with whatever is planted on it, a wet clay that needs to be moulded now (Is.28:8-9).
5. Children can believe in Christ and live godly lives (Matt.18:6). It is established that:
1% Of people make decision for Christ before the ages of 0-4 years.
84%. 4 and 14years

10%. 15 and 30 years

4%. After 30 years of age

1. We are in the last days: These are the evil days (1 Tim.3:1-2). Children are exposed to "wolves" (demonic operations). Immorality is being exhibited on T.V. and Radio. It seems Satan's programme now is "Catch Them Young for Satan."
1. They are the leaders and church of tomorrow. "Build the child, build the nation." The continuity of the church depends on our obedience to the command of the Lord "Let the children come." Don't consider so much of what the child is today but what he will become tomorrow. Today's unchurched child is tomorrow's criminal.
2. Children have been neglected for so long. Children though may not be a people group in the real sense of the word, they are a definable group with characteristics that cut across cultures and therefore deserve much prominence in the world evangelisation programme. The children are an enormous group, a suffering group, an exploited group and a neglected group in mission strategy.
3. A great potential lies in the child. He is like an arrow in the hand of a mighty man (Ps.127:4). We should not wait until the devil takes hold of these potentials.
4. It is better, easier and wiser to build children than to repair men. (Psalm 11:3). Do it now!
5. It is not God's will that any of these little children should perish - Matt.18:14. Jesus said "Allow the little children to come and forbid them not...."(Matt.19:14; Mk.10:14). Jesus wants the children to come to Him. They too want to come to Him.

Children have to be reached now. The task is enormous and urgent. The Lord is saying. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Will your response be, "Here am I, send him?" or "Here am I, send me?"

Where Children can be reached:

1. Home based
2. Church based
3. School based
4. Community based

Unless we take care of the rising generation, the present revival of religion will last only the age of man."

John Wesley

The Lord is saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah 6:8



WHAT JESUS TEACHES ABOUT CHILD EVANGELISM

Text: Matthew 18:1-14

This passage portrays the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ on Child Evangelism. It answers some important questions and throws light on some controversial issues about Child Evangelism.

Vs.2. What is the question asked by the disciple: and why?

What did Jesus do?

He called a little child and had him stand among them.

What does this action tell you about the attitude of Jesus to little children?

Children are important to Jesus

Vs.3. Why must the adults be converted as little children before they can enter into the Kingdom of God?

Adults should be converted and have childlike characters

(vs.4). What does this teach you about the state of mind of any soul who wants to inherit the Kingdom of God?

One important characteristic of little children that Christ pointed the attention of the disciples to is humility. What are the vices that we observe in adults?

Children are	Adult are
humble (v.4).	proud,
Teachable	Not teachable,
Softhearted	hardhearted
dependent	independent

Vs.5. Note that because children do not possess these vices, it makes it easier for them to receive the gospel. What is the blessing that Christ promises any Child Evangelist?

If you receive a child (don't discriminate against a child), you receive Jesus.

How can we cause children to sin? Vs.6-7.

By not teaching them correctly

By not showing good example

By telling them that Jesus no longer be with them

1. ***Not taking them serious***

2. ***Take advantage of them.***

3. ***Not saying sorry when we offend them.***

4. ***Respect/Honour them. e.t.c***

Vs.11. ***Jesus confirmed the sinful nature of children because children also sin, they are lost, hence they need to be saved.***

Vs.12-13. How much does Jesus value the soul of every child?

Vs.6-7. What punishment awaits those who mislead the children by not showing them the way of Christ?

Have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

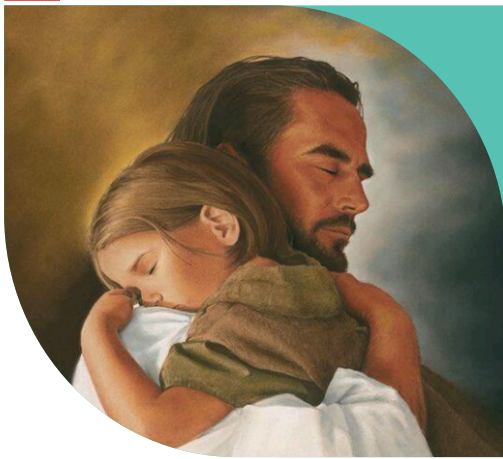
Vs.8-9. What does Christ say you should do to anything that will hinder you from evangelizing children?

Do away with anything that could prevent you from evangelizing children

Vs.10. What is the greatest warning of Jesus to every believer?

Don't despise a child. How can we despise a child?

Consider: John 21:15



WHAT JESUS TEACHES ABOUT CHILD EVANGELISM

- *We should seek for the lost children*
- *There is joy in leading children to Christ.*
- *Children, the lambs – John 21:15.*

Vs.14. What is the will of God concerning little children?

- ◆ *God does not want children to perish.*

Answer the following questions:

1. Are little children sinners?
2. Can they be saved?
3. Does God want them to be saved?
4. At what age can they receive the Lord?

Age of Accountability. When a child knowing sin, he can savingly believe

CHARLES HADDEN SPURGEON 1889 *On how old a child needs to be before he can be saved. / will not say at what age children are first capable of receiving the knowledge of Christ, but it is much earlier than some fancy; and we have seen and known children who have given abundant evidence that they have received Christ and have believed in Him at a very early age."*