

## LEADING CHILDREN TO JESUS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS YOUR GUIDE

We need to realize before we even begin that you or I cannot save one child. However, if I am privileged to deal with a child regarding salvation, I want to make sure that:

- My own heart is right.
- I use God's Word with care and reverence ~ it is the Word of our holy God.
- The Holy Spirit guides my words.
- I keep myself out of the process and just let Jesus use me and receive the glory.

Matthew 18:6 – “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

\* \* \* \* \*

ALWAYS have your Bible (the seed) opened.

Salvation is personal, so ask the child for his or her name, and use it as you deal with them. It is very important to know as many of the children as possible in your class or department by name ~ at least their first name.

As you are dealing with the child, try to ask questions which require an answer of more than just “yes” or “no”. The attention span of a child is short, so make sure they are not playing around, looking out the window, playing with their clothing, etc. You must have their attention and keep it. If they are acting up, send them back to their seat, so they do not distract the other children.

Make it a priority to deal with the child one-on-one.

Matthew 9:37-38 says, “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Remember that the invitation is the Lord Jesus Christ's harvest.

{NOTE: Sample dialogue in dealing with the child / children is italicized.}

### STEP ONE

The invitation should be presented in a very clear manner, and give good directions, so that even a child can understand. You and other adults may understand the instructions you give, but can a child understand what you are saying? When you get answers such as the ones found in “a” though “g” below, you know that the children did not clearly understand the invitation. Use words that are in their vocabulary. Use God's Word often, as it is His “two-edged sword”.

Before you pray, first ask the children to close their eyes, fold their hands on their lap and bow their heads. (Why do this? We close our eyes to block out things going on around us. We fold our hands so we don't disturb the persons next to us. We bow our head in reverence to a Holy God.) Next, ask if there is anyone who would like for you to pray for them. *I would like to pray for you if you have never asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins and come to live in your heart. If that is you, please raise your hand so I can see it.* After prayer tell the children if they would like to come and talk to someone about their need they may do so now. Sing a song for the invitation. Let the Holy Spirit work in their hearts.

We all want to see children saved, but don't be over-zealous. We cannot save one child. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can do that, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to plant the seed and give guidance once the Holy Spirit has done His work.

## STEP TWO

Ask the child their name and why he / she held up their hand or came forward. You will get several different replies. Some of the most frequent ones are listed below.

- a. "I don't know"
- b. A body motion such as shrugging their shoulders
- c. No answer at all
- d. "I forgot"
- e. "I came because my friend told me to"
- f. "I wanted to see where the others were going"
- g. "I followed my friend"

For these and similar replies, in a very kind and loving manner, dismiss them gently, and tell them they can return to their seat. DON'T give them the feeling they did something wrong. When the Holy Spirit does deal with them in the future, you want them to respond, know you care, and that you will be willing to listen to them.

- h. "I want to learn about God"

Answer the child by encouraging him / her to keep coming to Sunday school so they can learn more about God and His Son, Jesus, Who loves them so much He died for them. Quote John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This is planting the seed. Have them return to their seat, using a manner similar to the one described above.

- i. They come to request prayer for their family members, themselves or even pets.

ALWAYS take the time to pray with them at this time. (Never minimize or brush aside their request to pray.) Sometimes they will ask you to pray for a family member who has died. Explain to them that when a person dies, they no longer need us to pray for them. If they knew Jesus as their Savior, their loved one is in heaven right now with Him. However, do pray with / for the child because they are feeling sad and missing their loved one.

- j. "I want to go to heaven"
- k. "I don't want to go to hell"
- l. "I want to be saved"

Once you have determined that the child is coming to be saved:

## STEP THREE

The next thing you need to find out is if the child understands what sin is. If they don't, tell them sin is doing wrong instead of doing right.

Use ILLUSTRATIONS they will understand – a child with his hand in a cookie jar, children fighting, a child with a mean look on his face who wants his or her own way, a child disobeying his parents.

Ask the child if he / she has ever sinned. If their answer is “no”, open the Bible to Romans 3:23 and read, *“For all have sinned”. That means (use your name) has sinned, and (use their name) has sinned. The Bible says that ALL have sinned.*

Use VISUAL AIDS if possible (a picture is worth a thousand words) – show a picture of children (red, yellow, black and white), a ball player, a king / president, people living in a hut. Repeat *ALL have sinned.*

At this time, if they still don’t understand that they are a sinner, ask them to think about what the Bible (God’s Word) says about sin, and if they have any more questions they can come and talk to you anytime about being saved. Make sure they understand they did not get saved at this time, but that God is dealing with them. When they understand what sin is they can be saved. Always end the session in prayer and then dismiss them gently. Remember to pray for them during the week.

If they do understand what sin is, and admit that they have sinned:

#### STEP FOUR

Help them to understand that someone must pay for the sins they have committed. In your Bible, turn to Romans 6:23 and read, *“For the wages of sin”*.

VISUAL AID – show them a piece of money, a picture of money, or a pay stub and explain to them that if you work you get paid for doing the job. That is called a wage.

*The Bible says the wages of sin “is death”. This death is separation from Jesus, where we have no fellowship with Him. We cannot talk to Him or spend time with Him. The Bible says that Jesus will pay the wages for (use your name)’s and (use their name)’s sins if we ask Him to.*

VISUAL AID – Show a picture of a small child on one side and Jesus on the other side, with a gulf in between (hell).

*Praise God the verse doesn’t end there. Continue reading: “but the gift of God”*

VISUAL AID – Show a gift box with a nice bow or a picture of gift boxes. Then explain that *a gift is something you don’t have to pay for. You don’t have to work for it. You don’t have to be good to get it. A gift is something that someone gives to you. God has a gift for me, and for you. You just have to receive, or open, it. The verse continues: “is eternal life”*

*Eternal life means to live forever in heaven with Jesus. NO ONE can take this gift away from you. It cannot be stolen, and you cannot lose it. It is a gift from God. The Bible says this gift comes only “through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

*Jesus paid for my sins and for your sins when He died on the cross.*

*Jesus loved you even before you were born. He also knew that you and I would sin. He loved us SO much that He was willing to come to this earth and die for our sins.*

*Romans 5:8 says “But God commendeth (or “showed”) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*Jesus left His beautiful home in heaven and came to this earth as a baby. He was born in a manger. He grew up and faced all the things that you and I face everyday, but without sinning. Then, as the Son of man, He died for me and for you, to pay the price for our sins, that we might be saved.*

*Now, (use their name), in order to receive this gift, just as I did many years ago (you might briefly share your own salvation experience), you need to accept the gift of salvation. Do you know how you can do that?*

#### STEP FIVE

Explain now that they need to confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead.

Read Romans 10:9, which says, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*”

VISUAL AID – *Sometimes we say things with our mouth (point to your mouth or have the verse printed on a card with a picture of lips and a heart), but we truly don’t believe them in our heart. For example, someone may say, “I hate you” to someone they love just because they are angry. They have said it with their mouth, but did not really believe it in their heart.*

*God’s Word says we must confess Jesus with our mouth AND believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead after He died on the cross for our sins; He is alive and living in heaven today.*

*Now (use their name), the Bible says that if you do that, “thou (insert their name), shalt be saved”.*

At this point, ask the child if they have any questions to make sure they understand what you have covered to this point. If necessary, you may need to review any areas they do not seem to fully understand.

Explain again that the child needs to believe with all their heart that Jesus died on the cross, and that He came out of the tomb alive, and lives in heaven today. Then tell them that if they believe that in their heart, they need to ask Jesus to forgive them of their sins.

*Are you willing, (use their name), to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and come to live in your heart?*

***THIS MEANS THAT YOU WILL MOVE THE DEVIL OUT OF YOUR HEART AND INVITE JESUS TO MOVE IN.***

*(Use their name), you can do that by praying to Jesus (which is talking to Him, just like you and I have been talking now). You can pray first, to provide an example for them, and then let them pray in their own words.*

*Dear Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross and after three days You came out of the tomb alive. I believe that You are in heaven now sitting at the right hand of God. Because You did this, I ask You, Jesus, to forgive me of all my sins and be my Savior. Thank you, Jesus, that You have forgiven me of my sins. Amen.*

If the child is not willing to pray, be VERY CAREFUL to let the Holy Spirit guide the child. It is possible to persuade a child into praying when he truly does not understand what he is doing. Children love to please you, and if they are doing this just to please you, this would be fatal to them spiritually.

If the child is willing to pray and you think they have a good understanding, have them go ahead and pray. After their prayer, explain ETERNAL LIFE.

This is often a hang up for children. They need to know salvation takes place ONE time. Children in homes, schools and cities where they are often exposed to sin come to church feeling dirty or unworthy of eternal life.

Share John 10:29, where Jesus said, “. . . *no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*”

VISUAL AID – A picture of a hand with children in the palm, or draw a face on your palm and close your hand. *Jesus takes you by the hand when you get saved and no one can take you away from Him.*

*Hebrews 13:5 says, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

Question them: *If you are on your way home one day and something happens to you, (use their name), where would you go?* The answer should be heaven. If not, ask them where Jesus is now. (He is in heaven.) Explain that now that they are His child, if they died, they would go to heaven to be with Him.

PLEASE DON'T GIVE THEM A FALSE HOPE. BE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND CORRECTLY WHEN QUESTIONED. HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE, AND SO IS HELL.

Read them II Corinthians 5:17, which says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” *(Use their name), you have become a new person in Jesus, and you will not want to do things that are wrong. You will want to do things that please God.*

Help them to understand that, even though we want to, no one is able to be right all of the time, and they will still do things that are wrong and sin against God. However, *now that you are a child of God you need to say “I'm sorry” when you sin and disobey God's Word. Jesus will forgive you. The devil will always be out there to tempt you, but do as Jesus did and use the Word of God. It is your weapon, or your sword, to fight against the devil.* Encourage them to begin to memorize Scripture.

ALWAYS have the child you lead to the Lord checked by someone else to be sure they fully understand.

Make a follow-up visit in the home. Go over the plan of salvation with the parents so they will understand what has happened in their child's life. Answer any questions they may have. Pray that you will also be able to lead the parents to Christ! This would also be a good opportunity to discuss baptism with them.

Encourage the child to tell others (bus workers, parents, everyone they meet) about their decision to be saved.

REMEMBER: GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION IS SIMPLE,  
SO THAT EVEN A CHILD CAN UNDERSTAND.

\* \* \* \* \*

## JASON ~ A PRIZE STUDENT

Jason was a kindergartner in my Sunday School approximately twenty-five years ago. He came on the church bus and attended faithfully every Sunday.

Jason had red hair that was a mess and the dirtiest freckled face you ever saw. The church bus runner would knock on the door of Jason's house every Sunday morning. Jason would jump out of his bed, run out the door, hop on the bus, and away they went.

When Jason arrived, I took him to the restroom and washed his face and hands. Each week I would tell him Bible stories about Jesus. I told him of Jesus' love and how Jesus could clean him on the inside, because Jesus looks on the inside and sees all the things we do wrong.

One day Jason came to Sunday School with his face clean just in a small circle. He had tried. He ran to me and put his little arm around my legs and said "I washed my face just for you." With a smile that was SO big, he then added, "I asked Jesus to clean up the inside, too." With tears streaming down my face, I told him how happy I was for him. We discussed his salvation and he told me all about it.

That day, I saw true salvation in the eyes of one little boy who believed in having a clean heart that only Jesus could give. He became a new creature in Jesus Christ.

Jason went to his table and I looked down at my dress. There was a big black ring around my white dress from his hug, which never did come clean ~ but what a wonderful hug that was!

The following Saturday, I went to visit Jason at his home, hoping to speak with his parents. When I arrived at the house, it was vacant. I went next door to see if they knew where Jason was. The neighbor informed me that Jason and his parents had moved during the night, and they were not sure of an exact location. There had gone somewhere in West Virginia.

I am so thankful that we at church were able to plant the seed of the Word of God, and that the Holy Spirit did His work in the heart of this child, and that he trusted Jesus as his Savior. I have not seen Jason since that time, but I know that one day I will meet him again ~ in heaven!

\* \* \* \* \*

This handout has been prepared for you by Mrs. Sue Simon. Mrs. Simon was the Sunday School superintendent at Cleveland Baptist Church in Cleveland, OH for over 30 years, working primarily with first and second graders. In addition to teaching Sunday School, she has also been active in Vacation Bible Schools and SMITE programs. Following is her testimony:

"I was saved when I was 11-years-old, even though I had been in church since I was a baby. I loved the Lord Jesus and always tried to do what was right. However, it was not until the evening that Brother Wynn preached on Jesus, Who said, "I am the way", that I realized I was trying to get to heaven by "doing". I was trying to earn salvation and not accepting the way Jesus had provided. That night, by my bedside, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

At the age of 16, I was baptized and surrendered my life to my Saviour and Lord. I have stumbled lot of times, but I am thankful that my Lord, in His loving care, has always come and picked up the pieces.

I love children and I have worked with them for many years. I see a great need to make sure that the seed of the Word of God is planted in their life with love and understanding. They might be little people, but they have souls that are precious to my Lord.”

FREE Bible Study Courses, FREE Ministry Helps and FREE Practical Helps Available at [www.kjvhearthehelps.com](http://www.kjvhearthehelps.com)

Brian and Diana Starre, The H.E.A.R.T. Ministry, Broadview Heights Baptist Church. E-mail: [kjvhearthehelps@gmail.com](mailto:kjvhearthehelps@gmail.com)