

# WHY EVANGELISE CHILDREN?

---

**Objectives:** To understand that it is urgent to evangelise children and it is important that they get saved from young age

## What does it mean to evangelize?

Evangelism is the proclamation and application of good news to lost sinners.

- 1) The Good News that Jesus Christ died for their sins.
- 2) The Good News that He rose again.
- 3) The Good News that He will save and forgive all those who want to turn from their sin and who put their trust in Him as Lord and Saviour.
- 4) The challenge and invitation to trust Jesus Christ (Mark 16v15; Luke 24 v46-48; 1 Corinthians 15v1-4). Our question is "Should we evangelize the children in accordance with this definition?" Or "Should we just tell Bible stories and encourage them to live moral and obedient lives?" Surely it should be the goal of every Christian teacher and parent to evangelize their children. There are at least eight reasons why we should evangelize children.

## A - The Lord Jesus Commands Us To Do So

"The final command of the Lord Jesus to His disciples was "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to EVERY creature" (Mark 16 verse 15).

- 1) What are we to do? We MUST "Go...preach THE GOSPEL.") Where are we to do it? "into all the world" - EVERYWHERE!!)

To whom should we preach? "every creature"- EVERYONE!!

The Gospel.....everywhere.....to everyone. This is the command of the Lord Jesus and He expects us to obey it. Children are included in the "everyone". Actually over one third of the world's population are children. We are commanded to "preach the Gospel" to this 35% of the world's population as well as to the other 65%. Also we need to realise that everyone in this larger segment were themselves



children at one time. However we are not just to tell children Bible stories. The Lord Jesus *COMMANDS* us to "*PREACH THE GOSPEL*" to them. He commands us to *EVANGELIZE* them. And remember that there is *ONLY ONE GOSPEL* and it is taught in the Bible. We are to preach *THIS GOSPEL* to the children. The message for them should be the same as for adults, although we will present it more simply and relate it to the level of their understanding and experience. The vast majority of the world's children have never heard the Gospel and that includes the children in supposedly 'Christian' countries. What a mission field!

## B -They are the Future

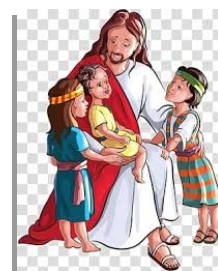
The Psalmist's desire in Psalm 78vs6-8 was "*that the generation to come may set their hope in God... and may not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation*" He realised that the future lay with the children and that if they were not reached they would become like "the present generation" of adults with all their sin and problems. We can see that what he feared has happened in our world to-day.to

Our future - the future of our culture, our country and our churches - is in the hands of today's children. They are the politicians, the police force, the teachers, the pastors and parents of tomorrow. When you evangelize them and see them trust Christ as their Saviour and Lord, you are investing in the future. It is an investment which God will bless. That is why He told Moses, at least four times, when he was preparing to enter the promised land, that the nation's future in that land depended upon them teaching the Word of God to their children (Deuteronomy 4v9; 6vs3-7; 11v19 and 31v12,13). You need to prepare for tomorrow by evangelizing the children today. They need to have the opportunity to hear and respond to "the Good News" NOW and not in ten years time. A little boy was asked "What will you be when you grow up?" He answered "Maybe a missionary, maybe a gangster". "What do you mean?" he was asked. "It all depends on who gets me first!"



## C - Because they can be Saved.

The goal of evangelism is that those who hear the Gospel message should put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Therefore this should also be your goal when you evangelize children. However, the big question is: "Is it possible for a child, even a little child, to put his trust in Jesus Christ? Is it possible for a child to be saved?" We



must find our answer in God's Word so that we can be sure that our ministry to the children is biblical. The Bible gives us the answer in two ways:

1) There are verses which clearly and specifically state that it is possible for a child to trust Jesus Christ for salvation.

For example, the Lord Jesus - with a child in His arms - said " *One of these little ones who believe in (trusts) Me*" (Matt 18v6). He tells us that a little one CAN put his trust in Him. Other verses include Titus 1v6, Psalm 78v7, Deut 31v12,13; 1 Samuel3v10.

2) There are many verses which clearly teach that SALVATION IS FOR EVERYONE. No upper or lower age limit is given. The only condition is to put one's trust in Jesus Christ. " *WHOEVER believes in Him ... has everlasting life*" (John 3v16). The Bible does not set an age limit for salvation.

3) In addition, EXPERIENCE SHOWS US that a child can trust Christ and be saved.. Many Christians trace their conversion to their childhood and many to their early childhood.

### D - They Need To Be Saved.

What would you do if you see a child in front of a danger? You would warn him to be careful. If you see a child with any kind of physical need you would want to help him. But THE BIBLE TEACHES US that children have SPIRITUAL NEEDS which are much greater and much more serious. You should be ready to help them also.



1) THEY NEED TO BE SAVED. The Lord Jesus uses the word "lost" and "perish" with regard to children (Matthew 18 v11-

14). They are ALL lost in the sense that they were born spiritually dead and outside God's kingdom. They will only receive spiritual life when they trust Jesus Christ. But those who are old enough to understand the Gospel, to be truly convicted of their sin and reject Jesus Christ, are lost in the sense that they are under the condemnation of God (John 3v18). Those who are not old enough to understand and believe are not condemned. The problem is that we do not know when a child reaches the age of accountability; so we must evangelize ALL children and leave the issue in God's Hands. It is sad that in many churches the children are often addressed as if they were ALL already in God's kingdom.

2) THEY NEED HELP IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. Our children are exposed to so many frightening and evil things such as drugs, violence, pornography, evil influences and false teaching. The Lord Jesus can strengthen them and enable them to resist temptation and live for Him. But they need to have Him in their

lives. Why should they have to wait until they are teenagers or adults? Why should you encourage teenagers and adults to trust the Saviour and not the children? They also need His salvation and help in their lives - NOW.

## E - They are open to the Gospel

There is no valid reason WHY wait until they are closed to it?

1) THE BIBLE TEACHES us that children are more open to the Gospel than adults. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 10:15 and Matthew 18:3 that before a person can enter the Kingdom of God he must "*be converted and become as a little child*". Before an adult can be saved he must become like a child-humble, trustful and dependent. Adults find this very difficult; but the child does not. He is already a child. He is by nature humble, trustful and dependent. And God can use these natural qualities to guide him into salvation without him having to go through the often traumatic experience an adult has in "becoming like a child". Therefore children are more open to the Gospel and salvation than adults. Also, because the child is younger, he has spent fewer years in sin and his heart is more open and tender. The older children become, the more resistant they are to the Gospel and therefore harder to reach. (See Ecclesiastes 12:1)



2) EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATES that the child is more open to the Gospel than the adult. Contrast the response of the children to your ministry with that of teenagers or adults.

3) STATISTICS SHOW US that most people are saved when they are young, and that the number of those coming to Christ declines proportionately year by year. In the light of these three facts why should you concentrate on evangelizing teenagers and adults and neglect the children?



## F - They have their whole lives to live.

"What is the best age to trust Christ? The obvious answer is "as early as possible". The older a person is, the fewer years he can give to Christ. When a child trusts Christ he has many years to live for Him. A CHILD SAVED IS A LIFE SAVED. Also the human personality is largely formed in childhood. If a child trusts Christ, the indwelling Holy Spirit will mould that



personality. It is easier to direct the growth of a young and flexible sapling than to change a strong and fully grown tree.

### **G - We can reach their parents and friends through them**

God can use the lives and WITNESS OF CHRISTIAN CHILDREN to speak to - and challenge, unsaved parents and relatives. The adults' hearts are often open to the influence of their children.

### **H - God loves them and wants them to be saved**

The Bible teaches that God has A SPECIAL LOVE FOR CHILDREN. The Lord Jesus commanded "*Let the little children come to Me*" (Matt 19v14), and He also told us that "*It is not the will of your Father Who is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish*" (Matt 18v14).

**ARE YOU CONVINCED? THEN EVANGELIZE THE CHILDREN.**



### **DISCUSS**

1. How do you understand Matthew 18:6? Explain.
2. Team up with another friend and practice sharing the Gospel to a child. Take a turn to be the child and to be the teacher.
3. If you have children, ask God to help you lead them to Christ.

天 可 是 也 天 可 是 也 天 可 是 也

**Children's ministry is a high calling since we are the first to point them to Christ - it is their first touch with eternity.**