

### To Lead a Child to Christ

1. Remember, Christ said we are to come to Christ with simple, child-like faith. He said that the Kingdom of Heaven is made up of as such as little children. Don't try to force children into being other than a child. The plan of salvation is not something hard; allow the children to come to God with their simple faith. It is not necessary to have total understanding in order to accept Christ.
2. Treat each child as an individual, not as one of a group. Teach salvation as a group, but when it is time for a response; deal with each child on an individual basis. Children are different from one another. There is no certain age when every child is ready to accept Christ. Never force a child to say something he is not ready for; rely on the Holy Spirit to direct you in your dealings with him.
3. As you teach a class or just tell a story to a child, teach the basic facts of salvation. This will need to be done on many occasions. Don't feel that doing it on one occasion is sufficient. Even if all the children in your class profess to be Christians, briefly re-emphasizing salvation will strengthen their knowledge and their assurance of their own salvation.
4. After teaching a lesson or a story, present clearly the basic facts of our salvation. As you prepare for your class early in the week, ask God if this is to be a time of special emphasis on salvation. Ask Him to have those present who need to hear the Gospel. Don't be afraid- God will strengthen you in your task and give you the words to say.

5. One method I find helpful in dealing with children for salvation is the use of objects. The following are some examples:

Wordless Book  
Color Beads  
Color Block  
Flannelgraph  
Small hand-held chalkboard  
Gospel Glove

6. Suggestions of what to say:

Gold- Gold represents heaven. We all want to go there when we die.

The Bible says Jesus is preparing a special place for us in heaven. I want to go there when I die. But, there's a problem.....

Black- This black represents sin. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that we have all sinned. We have all done things that separate us from God. And, the payment for sin is death. (Romans 6:23)  
But, there is hope!

Red- God saw us with sin, but He loved us so much that He didn't want us to die in sin and go to hell. So, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to the world to die on a cross for us- for our sins! (John 3:16)  
If we will just ask Him, He will forgive us our sins and wash us clean. (1 John 1:9) The red stands for the blood of Jesus that washes away our sins. When we ask for God to forgive us our sin and to save us, He washes us white as snow again.

White- The white reminds us that we are clean before God when He has saved us. God hears and answers our prayers. He sees us and knows us and cares for us.

Green- But, He wants us to grow just like the green trees do. We need to pray, read the Bible and praise Him as we obey His commands. Now, we want to share with others what God has done for us so they, too, can be with God.

Gold- Remember, when Jesus died on that cross, He didn't stay dead. He rose again! And, He is now preparing a special place in heaven for those who have been washed clean by His blood!

After you have explained to the children how to be saved, you need to give the children a chance to respond to God. Remember, it is God they are responding to, not you! If you are in a group situation, you may ask the children to all bow their heads. Then, ask them to raise their hands if they want to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and to save them. If any respond positively, have them go to a separate area (with you or another teacher, leaving the other children being watched by someone quietly). If you are alone, either ask the class to sit quietly while you talk individually to those who responded; or, talk to them after class. If at all possible, get some help so you can talk to and pray with them right away. At times, you may deal with them as a group. However, be careful doing this and follow up with a personal talk with each one.

Ask the child why he raised his hand or came forward. Some may raise their hands to anything you say! Some may respond because their friends do. If they don't say something about "because I want to ask Jesus in my heart," or "because I want to tell Jesus I'm sorry," etc.; then, politely ask them to return to their seats with no condemnation being added. For those who responded in a manner that you feel was in some way led by the Holy Spirit, briefly explain again what it means to be saved. You may use the same scriptures again. Next, ask them to either repeat your prayer or to pray on their own and:

1. Ask Jesus to forgive their sins.
2. Ask God to wash them with Jesus' blood.
3. Ask Him to come in to their life and save them.
4. Thank God for doing it!

After a child has done this, re-affirm their salvation with a verse such as 1 John 1:9 or John 3:16 using the child's own name. Tell them the angels are rejoicing with them and encourage them to immediately tell someone what they have done. Rejoice!!!