

How to Lead a Child to Christ

Using the Wordless Book

I. Why lead children to Christ?

- A. God commanded that we preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Children are included!
- B. Studies suggest most believers come to Christ during childhood. The time to reach them is now, before they grow up.
- C. Spiritual condition demands it.
 - 1. He is a sinner (Rom. 3:23).
 - 2. He cannot understand spiritual truths (1 Cor. 2:14).

II. Introducing *The Wordless Book*

- A. Stir the child's curiosity so he will want to hear the story.
- B. You could begin with the question: "Have you ever seen a book like this before?"
- C. Gain permission from parent if you are in an "open air" setting (anywhere that is not a structured club/class where parent has already given permission for child to attend).

III. Gold Page—basic truths about God

- A. Creator—*God made everything (give examples). God made you!*
- B. Love—*God loves you (make it personal). Use John 3:16a.*
- C. Holy—*God is perfect. He's never thought, said, or done anything wrong. Heaven is also perfect because it is where God lives.*

Link: But there is one thing that can never be in Heaven. That is sin.

IV. Dark Page—truths about the child's problem of sin

- A. Definition—Keep it simple and on a child's level.

One way to define sin is: "*Sin is anything you think, say or do that does not please God or breaks His laws.*"

- B. Examples—Name sins most children can relate to, such as lying, cheating or disobeying.
Be specific and relevant to child’s age and culture.
- C. Scripture—Use a verse that teaches that all have sinned (Romans 3:23a).
- D. Sin nature—*You are born with a “want to” to sin.*
- E. Punishment—*To be separated from God (not have a friendship) now and someday to be forever separated in a terrible place of suffering; to not be able to live with God in Heaven.*

Link: God has a wonderful plan so that you don’t have to be punished for your sin.

V. Red Page—truths about the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

- A. Who Jesus is—God the Son / Perfect Man.
- B. What Jesus did—He took the punishment for sin.
 - 1. *Jesus willingly took your punishment.*
 - 2. *He bled and died on the cross and was buried.* Read and explain Hebrews 9:22b.
 - 3. *He came back to life again.* Use 1 Corinthians 15:3-5a
 - 4. Jesus is now in Heaven, ruling as King.

Link: Because of what the Lord Jesus did for you, you can have your sins forgiven.

VI. Clean Page—God’s truth about being made clean from sin

A. Invitation

- 1. Read and explain John 1:12.
But as many as—*If you...*
Received him—*take Him as your own.*
To them gave he power—*He gives you the right.*
To become the sons of God—*You can be part of God’s forever family – His child.*
The Holy Spirit comes to live in you now, and He helps you do what is right.
Someday you will live with Him in Heaven.
Even to them that believe on his name—*To believe is to trust with all your heart that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins and that He rose again.*
You are believing that He is the only one who could do that for you because you know that you are a sinner and you cannot do anything to get rid of your sins. It means you are willing to let God change you on the inside.
- 2. Emphasize the seriousness of the decision.
- 3. Ask the child two personal questions: Do you believe on Jesus as your Savior today?
Would you like to tell Him that right now?
 - a. If the child says “**no**,” DO NOT pressure him. Answer any questions. Remind him he can believe in Jesus anytime and anywhere.
 - b. If the child says “**yes**,” ask thought-provoking questions to see if he understands:
Who is God? Does God love you?
Why do you need Jesus?

What did Jesus do so you could have your sins forgiven? Why is He the only one who could do that for you? What happened after Jesus bled and died?

How can you become a child of God?

- c. If the child answers these questions with understanding, ask him: "If you believe these things, would you like to tell God what you believe right now?"
- d. Remember to ask questions based on the child's response.

B. Prayer—Let the child tell God about his decision in his own words. Emphasize that saying a prayer doesn't make him a child of God – it's his belief in Jesus as his Savior. Use helps:

1. Tell God you are a sinner and are sorry for your sin.
2. Tell God you believe with all your heart that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and rose again.
3. Tell God you want to live His way, with His help.

C. Assurance of Salvation

1. Ask the child: *Whose child are you now? How do you know?*
2. Take the child back to the invitation verse (John 1:12) and put his name in the verse.
3. Share God's promises from Hebrews 13.
 - a. Heb. 13:5b "...I will never leave thee..." *Jesus will always be with you wherever you are.*
 - b. Heb. 13:6a "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper..." *God will give you power to do what is right.*

D. Confession of Sin—Teach the child what to do when he chooses to sin. Use 1 John 1:9.

Link: When you become God's child, He wants you to get to know Him better.

VII. Green Page—truths about how to grow closer to God

- A. Talk about things that grow. Use 2 Peter 3:18 to help the child know God wants him to grow!
- B. The child can do four things to help him grow:
 1. G: Go to church and Sunday School.
 2. R: Read the Bible and pray. *You can read a few verses or more each day and can talk to God about anything—at any time!*
 3. O: Obey God's Word. *Remember God the Holy Spirit lives in you to help you make right choices and to say "no" to sin.*
 4. W: Witness *Tell others what the Lord Jesus has done for you.*
- C. Give the child a tract to remind him about his decision to trust Christ as Savior.
- D. Let the child pray a "thank-you" prayer, and then you should pray for the child.

Further notes for reference:

- **Why are the pages of *The Wordless Book* not in the order they are taught?**
 - The gold page is separated from the dark page because sin is separated from God.
 - The pages in between are like a bridge between God's holiness and our sinfulness.

On the Dark Page:

- The teaching is calling attention to the darkness of our sin, which is a Biblical concept. (See Eph. 5:11; 1 John 1:5-6 and other Scripture verses.)
- **If the child says he is not a sinner...**
 - Show him Romans 3:23 and remind him what "all" means.
 - Ask the child if he has ever been in trouble for something at home or at school. Ask if he got in trouble because he did something good or bad. Remind him that bad thing is what God calls sin.
 - When we tell the children about sin examples from our own lives, this helps them know it is okay to admit sin.
 - Sometimes sharing an example from your own life (something a child can also relate to such as lying) helps him see it's okay to admit he has sinned in front of the teacher because the teacher has sinned, too. Children sometimes have the thought, "Teacher thinks I'm a good kid and if I say I've sinned, he/she won't like me or will think I'm bad."

On the Clean Page:

- Keep in mind there are many verses that can work as an invitation verse, but we have chosen for you to learn using John 1:12.
- Explain the invitation verse phrase-by-phrase so the child understands God's condition (what he must do to be saved) and God's promise (what He promises as a result). You must explain each phrase carefully and clearly because he is probably seeing this verse for the first time.
- **Be careful to not give the child any impression that he will be saved if he prays a prayer!** Careful explanation is crucial to decrease the chance of a false conversion!
- Believing is what saves – not praying a prayer. It's trusting in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. To believe in context is to **trust with all your heart that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins and that He rose again. You are believing that He is the only one who could do that for you because you know you are a sinner and you cannot do anything to get rid of your sin. You are willing for God to change you on the inside.**
- A child needs to understand that salvation is more than going to Heaven someday. His relationship with God starts immediately when he is saved! God will be actively present in the child's life starting now and will help him do right.
- You could first ask if he has ever believed in Jesus as Savior before to emphasize that the initial choice to believe (which you just explained from the Bible) is a one-time decision.

- **The child may answer the two questions with “yes” or possibly “no.”** There are many different scenarios that can arise. Depend on the Holy Spirit as your guide to discern what the child’s need is.
- If the child answers “no” to these questions...
 - Remember in the video the instructor said you could ask if there is something he has a question about or ask why he feels that way. You may need to re-teach something.
 - Assure the child that he can believe in Jesus as Savior *whenever* he is ready and *wherever* he desires – here or at home, or wherever he is.
- If the child says, “my friend says it’s stupid to believe in Jesus.”
 - You might ask the child if he has ever asked his friend why he believes that.
 - Remind him just because another child says something doesn’t make it true. We need to look at what God says about believing in Jesus because His Word is *always* true.
 - Read verses like John 14:6 and help the child see the only way to Heaven (God’s home) is by going God’s way: believing in Jesus.
 - Remind the child, “No one can make the decision to believe in Jesus or not to believe in Him for you. Believing in Jesus as your Savior is something you must decide for yourself.”
- If he’s simply not ready, the presentation will end here because the rest of the *Wordless Book* is for a “yes” scenario.
 - Remind him that he can come to you at any time if he has questions.
 - Give him a tract that explains salvation and a *Truth Chasers Club*® starter lesson.
 - Pray for the child right then, that God would help him come to believe in Jesus.
- If the child answers the two questions with a “yes,” you could show him the colors of *The Wordless Book* as you ask questions about the Gospel to check his understanding.
- Before the child expresses his belief to God in prayer, you may want to remind him again that the words he is saying or repeating will not save him but rather believing in Jesus, which he is expressing to God.
- If a child is shy or needs help expressing his belief to God, allow him to repeat a prayer after you.
 - Remember to emphasize the seriousness of the decision.
 - Sometimes a child needs help because he can’t remember all of the things he wants to tell God.
- An alternative to having the child repeat after you would be to show the pages of *The Wordless Book* one at a time and help the child by asking a question for each page: “What do you want to tell God you believe about your sin?” (Then let the child tell God.) “What do you want to tell God you believe about the Lord Jesus?” (Let the child tell God, etc.) This allows the child to talk to God in his own words, but provides help where it is needed.

- After the child expresses belief through prayer, remember to take him back to God's Word for assurance.
 - The child can have assurance of his salvation based on God's promise.
 - Since you yourself can't give assurance of salvation, do not say anything like "Praise God! Now that you're saved..." Instead use phrases like "when you believe," "if you truly believed today", etc. This will help the child to base salvation on the condition/promise verse rather than feelings or what someone says. It reminds the child that his salvation is based on what he believed and what God promised.
- After the child prays, put the child's name in the invitation verse as you teach assurance. This really helps personalize the teaching of salvation and assurance for the child.
 - If he can say the verse with his name in it, he will remember the promise more easily.
 - It is good to wait to put the child's name in the verse until after he expresses his belief in Jesus, rather than personalizing the verse when sharing it the first time. This helps avoid false assurance, especially if you are speaking to a group of children.
- Salvation: "Now and forever"
 - A newly-saved child needs to know God doesn't just save him from sin and then forget about him until the child gets to Heaven someday.
 - God is actively present in the child's life and will help him say no to sin. God will help him choose to do right.
 - The child can get to know God now, while he is still living here on Earth, and someday when his life on Earth is done, then he will live with God in Heaven.
- 1 John 1:9 – what to do when he sins again.
 - Explaining confession of sin gives the teacher the opportunity to reinforce truth learned regarding assurance (i.e. you don't have to "get saved" again, but you do need to tell God about the wrong things you did and agree with Him that it is sin).
 - It also helps the child know when (immediately) and how he can confess sin to restore fellowship with God.

On the Green Page:

- The instructor mentioned you might direct children to the book of Mark as the place to start reading the Bible.
 - We often recommend this book because Mark is a fast-paced narrative. It tells of Jesus using fairly simple language, so it's good for children.
 - Mark helps them get familiar with Jesus' life and ministry while He was here on Earth.
- Many have found it's helpful to recommend that the child read the number of verses that corresponds to his age. This is helpful in two ways:
 - 1) A child's age is a number he can easily remember.
 - 2) If a child hears "read a chapter a day," or "read the Bible each day," that can seem overwhelming. But a small number like his age seems (and is) more manageable and easier for him to do on a regular basis. As the instructor said to the child, he can always read more. But reading at least a few verses each day is good because it helps him get into the habit of spending time with God *on a daily basis*.

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