

## Why Reach Children with The Gospel?

We have had a wonderful week at Vacation Bible School! Our theme has been *Amazon Expedition* with an emphasis on creation. How thankful we are to see our kids learn the basics of “... *the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 1:3). We thank the Lord for the penny offering that will go into replacing the homes of many people in Myanmar who recently lost everything in the recent cyclone. It is hard to believe that our kids raised \$2,001.33, which will rebuild 28 huts for the Burmese people of Myanmar. Here at our Vacation Bible School we are very thankful for ten children who professed faith in Christ. Let us pray for them to follow up with baptism and hopefully for those whose parents are not saved, that God will use this to be a catalyst for whole families to come to Christ. The beginning of my wife’s family coming to know the Lord started when her oldest brother Kenny, came to Christ at a VBS when he was only eight years old.

At Christchurch we make a big deal about reaching kids for Christ! And we intend to keep on doing so. Jesus said, “...*Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God*” (Mark 10:14).

Why is it important to reach children with the Gospel?

### I. When children come to Christ they are delivered from a life of sin.

The prophecy of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth said, “...*and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*” (Matthew 1:21). Often times we hear people give their testimony of being alcoholics or hooked on drugs, sex or materialism. They then explain they were delivered out of this kind of a lifestyle. The Bible says, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” (II Corinthians 5:17). What is better than being delivered out of a life of sin? Being delivered from a life of sin is far better! You see, when a person is saved, they become a new creature, whether they are six, sixteen, or thirty-six! I have often said, with my kind of personality and family history, I could have easily become an alcoholic. Although I have done many things I am ashamed of, I have never been under the influence of alcohol. I attribute this to the fact that I gave my heart to Jesus at six!

For the skeptic who may say, “Yes, but I have known of folks who professed their faith and lived a pretty raunchy life afterwards.” Much could be written on the subject of people who only “profess” faith, but do not “possess” faith. Judas Iscariot is the best, although saddest example. He lived in the presence of the Lord for three years, but never accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. On the other hand there are Christians who really did mean business for Christ when they prayed and asked the Lord to save them, but they were not disciplined. With guidance in the Scriptures, these may be salvaged from living the wrong kind of life, because they have the seed of faith in them; all we need to do is give them the ground and environment to grow in grace. “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God*” (I John 3:9). For clarification, this simply means the new born spirit of a person is perfected by the blood of Jesus and although they may lapse into a backslidden condition, they do not stay there, because they have the sinless nature of Jesus in them. So, we say hurrah! for kids being saved because they are delivered from a life of sin.

### II. When children come to Christ their worldview is aligned.

The secular Webster’s dictionary defines worldview as a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world: *a Christian worldview revolves around the battle of good and evil*. Better than a child’s view of the right and wrong being left up to them, we need to guide them into the right

understanding of God, who He is, how He loves and what He can do. We need to warn our kids of the flesh, the world and the Devil. We need to instill the fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. Without accepting Christ, there will be no starting point for the truth. *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”* (John 8:36).

Youth is a great time. God’s Word says, *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them”* (Ecclesiastes 12:1). We shall never have this time again. The Bible says, *“He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length”* (Proverbs 29:21). The Word of God points out that even one who is considered a servant, if brought up as a child, will leave his lower station of servitude and behave as a son with all the rights and privileges. This is the benefit of alignment of a correct worldview early in our personal history. I vouch for this in my own life, having been reared in a Christian environment. William Shakespeare said, *“There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.”* Our goal is to keep our children from being bound in the shallows and miseries of an existence without Christ. The blessings of a life lived in God’s will from youth, middle age, old age and death itself are more than can be counted. *“If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand...”* (Psalm 139:18).

### **III. When children come to Christ the parents can live and die in peace.**

My wife and I were given a Christian heritage by our godly parents. We sensed an obligation to give to our kids what our parents had given to us. Even if it appears that grown kids have not adhered to the principles in which they were taught, a parent could have peace of mind they handed the faith to them in sincerity and truth. The Bible teaches, *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6).

The old saying, “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink” is true. Parents, let’s at least get the kids to the Water of Life! Let’s live in such a way, we help make them thirsty! *“Ye are the salt of the earth...”* (Matthew 5:13). If we have lived a conscientious Christian life, we can live and die in peace as parents. This is an important reason to reach our children with the Gospel in their youth.

We thank God for the following helpers in Vacation Bible School: Dawn Allen, Rosa Balay, Tony Balay, Jr., Arianna Balderas, Alyssa Balderas, Michelle Bertrand, Stephen Bertrand, Beth Briner, Jon David Briner, Grace Ann Caballero, Amanda Cochran, David Cochran, Lissa Cochran, Megan Cooper, David Corn, Patti Corn, Adrianna Fisher, Marsha Fisher, Spencer Fisher, Meredith Garrou, Gillian Harris, Laurie Harris, Mitzi Higginbotham, Dianne Hogstrom, Melody Hogstrom, Ruthie Hogstrom, Ben Howell, Daniel Howell, Rebekah Howell, Angie Johnson, Damon Jones, Melanie Kaplan, Bethany King, Jamie Kujawa, Carolyn Lemons, Deborah Little, Lindsay Little, Michelle Manning, Dale Mathews, Jacob Mathews, Mark Mathews, Ruth Mathews, Amy McGee, Doris McGee, Joey McGee, Talia McGee, Joey Messer, Cindy Messick, Olivia Montgomery, Sheryl Montgomery, Linda Pool, Rebekah Pool, Barbara Pope, Carrie Ray, John Mark Ray, Sarah Ray, Martha Richbourg, Pat Sison, Patrick Sison, Paul Sison, Eraina Smith, Ruth Stayte, Cheryl Strauss, Kim Thomas, Heather Transeau, Landon Transeau, Beth Troutman, Cole Troutman, Keith Troutman, Tiffany Troutman, Michelle Welch, Curtis Whisler, Rebecca Whisler, Charity White, Donna White, Dennis Wilkening, Lori Wilkening, Joan Young.

- Pastor Pope -

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