

# CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM MANUAL

**"Let the little  
children come to me  
and do not hinder them"**

*Matthew 19:14*

**They need  
SALVATION**

**YOU**  
can bring  
a child  
to the feet  
of Christ

**WALK BY MY SIDE**

Let us rescue the children



biblewell.org



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## Evangelizing Children

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**E**vangelizing children is opening our hearts to provide all that we have to others. It is a great work that we can do to guide children to Christ, to help them in their spiritual development, and accompany them in their prayers. If we entrust our life to the Holy Spirit, it will work in the hearts of our children.

### ≡ How can we evangelize children?

There are different methods of evangelization. At home, in the church, Bible classes at home or outdoors, camps, Vacation Bible School, campaigns, hospital visits, Bible studies, special programs, radio programs, prayer chains, etc.

#### **At home**

The home is the first place where evangelization begins. Every parent should talk about our Savior to the children.

God had commanded the Hebrews to teach their children about His requirements, and to make them acquainted with all His dealings with their fathers. This was one of the special duties of every parent; one that was not to be delegated to another. In the place of stranger's lips, the loving hearts of the father and mother were to give instruction to their children. Thoughts of God were to be associated with all the events of daily life. The mighty works of God in the deliverance of his people, and the promises of the Redeemer to come, were to be often recounted in the homes of Israel. The great truths of God's providence and of the future life were impressed on the young mind. (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. CE 60.2).

It is a solemn, serious work to care for those for whom Christ has died, to teach children not to lavish their affections upon the things of this world, not to waste time and labor on that which is worth less than nothing. In order to educate their children aright, mothers must be learners in the school of Christ. The Christian mother will spend much time in prayer, for in the home children are to be taught to be true to the government of God (Manuscript 34, 1899.4)

#### **In the Church**

As a church, we must make great efforts to evangelize all the children who attend our classes. Different types of activities can be done, not just the Sabbath school study. Activities such as sermons for children, missionary work, workshops, special activities, etc. are wonderful.

#### **Bible classes at home**

They are classes for children from different neighborhoods. We'll demonstrate this method later on.

## **Outdoors**

We get together in a park or in a small outdoor space where we gather a group of children to talk about the Lord.

## **Camps**

These are periods of 5 to 8 days where we can go camping with children. These days are very useful because we are with them 24/7 and can keep track of the evangelistic work being done in their hearts.

## **Vacation Bible School**

These are classes that take place on vacation days where we invite the residents of the church or where we perform the activity for a period of 4 to 8 weeks only. It usually has a specific theme.

## **Campaigns**

When we perform evangelistic activities for adults, we can also organize evangelistic campaigns for children. But it is also possible to organize only children's evangelistic campaigns. It lasts a short, consecutive period of time.

There are many children in the world that are in need of rescue. If we pray with faith for the evangelization of children, then many doors for evangelization will be opened and many children will open their hearts to hear the message of salvation. If we pray fervently we can open many homes for Bible classes.

## **≡ Bible Classes at Home**

Organizing a Bible class at home for your neighborhood is one of the best methods we can use for the evangelization of children whose families do not show any interest in the word of God.

It is done in a family home, in a garden, or anywhere near a home where we can take the children every week.

Bible classes at home have several main purposes:

- Reaching out to children where the gospel is not being brought.
- Teaching the Word of God.
- Inspiring an interest in the children to attend a small gathering or church where the Bible is taught.

When the children of a neighborhood gather in a house to hear the word of God, their parents do not have to make any effort for their children to attend, nor do they put any obstacles in the way. Each one of the children can attend without any special preparation. They only have to walk a few blocks from their houses and come together with their group of friends. They will be in attendance at a well-known home that enjoys trust and respect for all.

It would be ideal for each neighborhood to have a home Bible class in order to reach many children with a message of salvation.

## **The primary purpose of Bible classes at home**

The main purpose of these classes is to lead the children to Christ. One must pray a lot for each of these children to open their hearts.

When we present the Gospel in our class, we must do it in a clear and simple way. It is important to explain clearly what sin is and what Christ's sacrifice on the cross is. We must constantly pray for the Holy Spirit to be working in the hearts of the children so that they may understand the message.

Knowing the children allows us to know the different spiritual phases that they are passing through and the scope of their understanding. Teachers should be attentive to the difficulties that children



will have after their decisions.

Children tend to tell everyone else about what they are learning and sometimes they have difficulties with their parents. You have to pray a lot so that the children can continue to attend the meetings and it would be beneficial to go and visit them to try to help.

The Lord will allow us to reach many hearts with the message of salvation. It is important to be attentive to the spiritual needs of our students in order to help them with our teachings.

## ≡ Organization

For the organization of a program in a home, the following steps should be taken.

### A. Draft

People who wish to serve the Lord in the evangelization of children will meet in order to plan and organize which activity they would like to accomplish. The activity will be broadly planned, and all the aspects related to this activity will be discussed, including the desired goal. A responsible leader will be chosen for this activity and all available collaborators will be looked for.

### B. Planning

The responsible leader will meet with his work team to study and plan the activity.

The church must be prepared for this by electing people that are responsible, capable, and that have their hearts dedicated to the Lord. The whole brotherhood must pray and fast for this purpose for some time, preparing their hearts for the task to be done.

## Considerations to take into account during the planning process

### 1. PURPOSES

The purposes, or commonly called objectives, are the way to go forward. It's the goal you want to achieve.

The learning objectives express the changes that we want our students to achieve. These facilitate and guide the teaching processes.

There are objectives:

- Generals: What I want to achieve in a long term period; e.g.: one year...
- Specifics: Here and now, each class...

### 2. PROGRAM

When we meet with the work team to plan the activity, we will take into account how long our programs will last. The team will schedule the topics that will be taught over a period of time. e.g.: A quarter, a semester, or a year.

Within this planning we will appoint the people responsible for each meeting, the topics to be given, the lessons, etc. Here is a simple model to use for your planning.

DATE	TOPIC	BIBLE STORY	MEMORIZATION	SONG	PRAYER	ACTIVITY

Along with this material we also have the evangelistic program for the home, for one year, to facilitate your task.

### 3. STAFF

When we form our work team, we must pray that the Lord chooses people willing to serve children.

We can divide the collaborators into two groups.

- » The people who are actively collaborating during the program; e.g.: teachers, assistants, musicians, homeowners, etc. We call this group an action group.
- » People who passively support our activity; e.g.: praying, economically helping, bringing children, etc. We call this group the support group.

### 4. PREPARATION

Everyone who will be involved must have some preparations before starting the activity and during the activity.

- Those who collaborate directly by teaching or helping should:
  - » Find a way to prepare themselves spiritually and intellectually.
  - » Gather to pray and plan.
  - » Evaluate what was done that day.
  - » Set goals and objectives.
- The Church
  - » The church must have knowledge of what is desired to be accomplished.
  - » Each teacher in charge must report what is being done in order to involve the church in the project.
  - » The Bible class must be an extended arm of the church, it is part of it because we are evangelizing.
- The task
  - » Assemble the material.
  - » Delegate responsibilities.
  - » Orientation.
  - » Appoint support groups.

### 5. PROPAGANDA

It is the way to arouse interest for children to attend the program.

#### » **The place**

One of the main points to keep in mind when advertising the event is the place.

If it is limited, then distribute little propaganda. If our place is small, one cannot hand out 1000 flyers because more than 100 children will come, and then will not be able to fit in the place. That is why one must check the place where the meeting will be held before making the propaganda.

If you want younger children, then you can adapt the propaganda for younger children. But if you want to have teenagers or older children, then you'll have to adapt it to them.

#### » **Find someone to be the leader**

It is important that someone is responsible for this area. He/she will take into account all the details needed for this task.

## **6. Continuation or follow-up**

The continuation of the program is very important because the success of the program depends on it.

The permanent results of the program are achieved in the long run, and for them it is important to achieve:

### **Regular attendance of children through**

- » Story Reading.
- » Visiting house-to-house.
- » Holiday programs.
- » Surprises

We create a very important bond when we have direct contact with the children. This contact allows you to reach the hearts of the children with the message of salvation, and also gives the opportunity share the message of the Bible with the parents.

### **Relate the children with church**

- » Visiting the children in the church.
- » Special meetings.

When we give them Bible classes for a while, then it is our duty to bring them into direct contact with the church.

This will allow them to gain a better relationship with the church as they grow in their Spiritual life.

### **Winning the family**

- » Find more families to give Bible courses to.
- » Get contacts.

The goal of the Bible classes is not only to talk about Jesus to the children, but also to make contacts with the parents and relatives.

After school, the children go to their homes and tell their parents what they did in our classes...that way it is not difficult to contact the family to study the Bible.

### **Establish a testimony**

- » Get to know us.

Our class is a reflection of who we are, and what we do. Our testimony also preaches. It talks about who we are as a church. People will know us for our work with children.

### **Summarizing the organization of a Home Bible Class**

- **Place:** The ideal thing would be to find a house where the owner is a woman of prayer, who serves the Lord with her heart and wants to collaborate with this ministry. It should be a place at no cost where the children can be comfortable. This place should be chosen very carefully as it must be a place respected by all the neighbors. A clean and well-groomed place, although humble.
- **Leaders:** It is always good for the home Bible Classes to have a teacher in charge and an assistant to help. The teacher will start the class with those who are arriving while the assistant is in charge of bringing the children together. Working like this will allow us to have a personal contact with the children, learning about their concerns and speaking to them personally about the Lord. If we have it this way, then there will be a total of three people. This includes the homeowner, who prays for the salvation of each one of the little ones who attend their class. If teachers have other people who pray for this class and visit it from time to time to meet them and pray for them personally, it will be difficult for Satan to defeat them.

- **Day:** After having the teachers and a home, a day will be chosen that suits all those who will attend so that one may have success in this home Bible class.
- **Publicity:** The teachers and the homeowner can give invitations to the neighborhood. It would be good to ask the parents for permission so that their children can attend. But the best propaganda you can have is that of the children themselves. If they like the program, they will be telling other friends so that everyone can attend. We can offer prizes for children who bring more friends, but we must fulfill the promises.

The majority of the attendees to these Bible classes are for those of school age, between ages 6 and 11. We can even divide our classes into two parts. We can arrange a class for the little ones, which is shorter, nice and early, and then another class for most of the children later.

## ≡ One hour of class

Different methods may be developed in the Home Bible classes, but they should always contain the following parts:

- » Songs
- » Prayer
- » Biblical verse
- » Bible Lesson

### 1. Songs

The singing period should be present in all the classes we do with the children. It should always be part of the program.

- » Keep the following in mind:
- » Look up the songs that you are going to sing beforehand
- » Hymns or theme songs. These can be by month, by quarter, or by subject.
- » Songs must be varied and cheerful.
- » We can sing several songs during a class program.
- » Hymns and songs teach divine messages, which are of joy to all children.

### A. Requirements for a children's song

There are a number of requirements that we should keep in mind when we search for a song for our class:

#### Lyrics

- The song should always carry a message.
- It is important to keep in mind that it should not have doctrinal errors.
- Should contain simple words within the child's vocabulary.
- A message according to the child's need, interest, and spiritual experiences.
- Easy to understand.

#### Music

- The melody of the song should be simple.
- The character of the song should comply with the lyrics. Simple and coordinated rhythms with the lyrics.
- Easy to understand.



## B. Teaching the song

To teach a new song we must follow the next steps.

- **Introduction:** Narration or conversation that brings the child closer to the song. We can look for some element to help us if necessary.
- **Presentation:** We present the theme of the song. We can show the lyrics of the song on a big poster, or we can find pictures that represent the parts of the song.
- **Explanation:** We explain the message of the song. Take difficult concepts or words into account
- **Application:** It is time to tell the children about the meaning of this song for their lives.
- **Repetition:** At this moment we are learning the song. We must keep in mind that for children, repeating the song without stopping can become dull. We can use different methods that, although we are repeating the song, are entertaining for the children. ex. Now the women will sing alone, only the boys sing, now only those who have hair sing, those who are dressed, the shoes, the pants, those who are awake... After so many repetitions, the students will have already learned the song.

## 2. Prayer

Children should pray to get grace so that with it they may resist temptations that will come (*Review and Herald*, November 17, 1896).

Jesus would have the children and the youth come to Him with the same confidence with which they go to their parents. As a child asks his mother or father for bread when he is hungry, so the Lord would have you ask Him for the things which you need....AH 299.3

Jesus knows the needs of children, and He loves to listen to their prayers. Let the children shut out the world and everything that would attract the thoughts from God; and let them feel that they are alone with God, that His eye looks into the inmost heart and reads the desire of the soul, and that they may talk with God....(AH 299.4)

### Directing the time of prayer

The time of prayer is a moment that we set apart during our class. It is there where we teach children everything about praying. It's a special time to talk to God; that's why this moment is so important.

It lasts about 5 minutes.

Let's look at some important points to consider during this time.

- » Make it brief. It's a special moment and it shouldn't last long. We don't give a topic, it's a moment to talk to God.
- » Short sentences with simple and specific terms. While we pray, we must speak so that our children understand that we're speaking to God.
- » Use plural first person, including us, in the prayer. When we use "we", we are including the children in our talk and they will feel like they are part of this moment.
- » Give thanks when praying. To be thankful is a priority in our prayers. Psalm 107:8-9 says, "Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,;for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."
- » Use a song to create a good environment. When preparing the children by singing a song, it allows us to create an atmosphere of reverence before praying. There are many songs for this purpose. Choose the best for your group.
- » Ask for silence, reverence and obedience. It is important to get accustomed from the beginning on, so that the children may be reverent and remain silent.

### **3. Bible Verse**

"And these words which I command thee today shall be upon thy heart."

Teaching the Word of God can offer us great benefits. The greatest blessing of all that one can give to the kids prayer, because the seed of the word of God is sown into their hearts.

The word of God should stand as the highest educating book in our world and should be treated with reverential awe. It should be placed in the hands of the children and youth as the great lesson book, that they may know Him whom to know aright is life eternal. (CT 427.2)

The child should know that what the teacher teaches him is what the Bible says. Your knowledge about each doctrine or direct portion of the Bible should be clear and specific so you will not waver in adversity; The child will then base his faith on a "Thus saith the Lord."

### **Selecting appropriate Bible verses**

When we teach the Bible to children, we must look for texts with a specific meaning according to the teachings done before. Our students should not leave our class without having learned a Bible verse.

Four important points when selecting our verses:

- » Suitable for the lesson to be given.
- » Understandable according to age, knowledge, and spiritual experience.
- » A complete truth; It doesn't matter if you use a single part.
- » Proper time for memorizing

### **Important points when it comes to memorizing**

- » Memorization is a joyful experience.
- » Affirm the decision to learn the verse.
- » Explain the passage.
- » Divide it into parts.
- » Repeat.

### **How to teach a Biblical text?**

Steps to follow.

- Step 1- Introduction: Arouse the students' interest.
- Step 2- Presentation: We should show our students the texts that we will learn on that day. It is important that it is written or represented with drawings.
- Step 3- Explanation: We should explain the verse and its meaning.
- Step 4- Relationship: Show how to apply the verse to the child's life.
- Step 5- Repetition: This is the beginning of memorization.
- Step 6- Review: The goal is to find out if the teaching is recorded in the child's mind.

### **4. Bible Lesson**

This is the main part of the class. The children will hear God's word for their lives through the Bible. Many of those who attend do not know anything about the word of God, and through our classes they learn from it for the first time. Each class should give our students a spiritual growth. We must make great efforts to achieve this.

".....through the living and enduring word of God", 1 Peter 1:23

## **Resources or elements needed for the preparation of the Bible Lessons**

1. It is very important to know the concepts and apply them in the different lessons by relating them to the spiritual life.
2. We need to organize and discipline ourselves to establish a time and place to study.
3. We need an attitude of prayer; prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Prayer for each one of the students. Prayer for the preparation of the Bible lesson.
4. We need help.
5. Assemble a library, an archive of materials, and organize the lessons in folders.
6. Study the biblical portion thoroughly, with time and much prayer.
7. We have to plan the lesson according to the children who will participate, taking into account age, spiritual needs, and interest.
8. Prepare or collect visual aids.
9. Plan the development of the lesson: How to get started, how to develop it, where to place illustrations, how to finish.
10. Rehearse with the visuals and in front of a mirror.
11. Evaluate.

## **Types of Bible Lessons.**

- Bible lesson with teaching. This is the type where we tell a story and then give a final lesson.
- Evangelistic Bible lesson. This takes place when we are talking about the gospel.
- Thematic Bible lesson. In this form, we look for a specific topic, eg: forgiveness, and then compare it with a story.
- Bible lesson with questions. A story is not told, but questions are asked, and in this way the topic is guided.

Those of us who assume the responsibility of teaching the Bible, have to apply what we know about the cognitive and emotional limitations of children in the selection of Biblical passages. Although the whole Bible is "inspired by God and useful to teach, to rebuke, to correct and to instruct in Righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16), we must take into account the way we teach certain biblical portions.

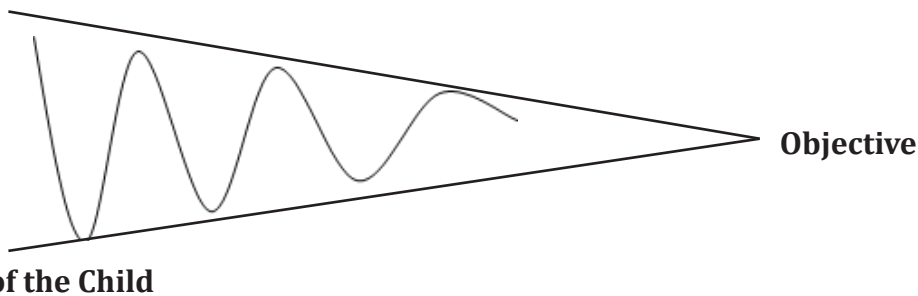
## **The analysis of the Bible story**

1. It is necessary to analyze the story to identify the truths of the gospel that emerge from it.
2. Find out where you can relate the topic with the story.
3. Relate these truths to the life of the child.
4. Warnings:
  - » The gospel does not always appear.
  - » Do not confuse the main problem with a secondary problem.

## **A diagram of the relationship between the Bible story and child's life**

When we give a Bible lesson, the best method for doing so is called meandering. Since we talked about a part of the story, we should then compare it with the life of the child. Next we should return to the story, and then we should compare it with the life of the child and so on. We should compare it at least four or five times.

## Biblical Story



## ≡ CONCLUSION

God wants children and young people to join the Lord's Army. Like older soldiers, children have powerful temptations to face, right and left. Satan and his legions will use every possible trap to entangle young people. Children are privileged to enlist in the Lord's army and should seek to persuade others to join their ranks. Children should be educated and prepared for Jesus Christ. They must be prepared to resist temptation and fight the good battle of faith. Direct your mind to Jesus as soon as you can understand your lessons with simple, easy-to-understand words.

### Review and Herald

Let us also accomplish this task with acts of love and tenderness toward the children. Educate them and prepare them to resist temptation.



## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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