

Teaching the Believing Child about Witnessing

I. The Definition of Witnessing

Witnessing is the act of carefully explaining the gospel message to lost sinners and giving them an invitation to accept God's offer of salvation through faith in Christ.

II. Key Verses on Witnessing



A. *Matthew 4:19*

"Then he (Jesus) said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."



B. *Mark 16:15*

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."



C. *2 Corinthians 5:18, 20*

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."



D. *Ezekiel 3:18-19*

"When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die, and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity: but you have delivered your soul."



E. *1 Corinthians 9:16*

"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."



F. *Matthew 5:16*

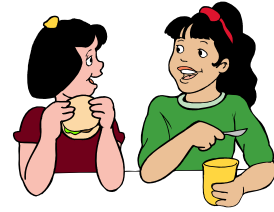
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."



G. *2 Timothy 4:5*

"But you be watchful in all things, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

III. Important Teaching on Witnessing



A. Teaching **Why** the Child Should Witness

1. All Believers are commanded to witness to others, beginning right where they live (Acts 1:8).
2. Believers who are truly following Christ will become fishers of men (Matthew 4:19).
3. He has been commissioned to be an ambassador for Christ with the task of reconciling the lost to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

B. Teach **How** the Child Can Witness

1. Teach him to witness through his changed life (Matthew 5:16). Help him understand that the real evidence of his salvation is from his changed attitudes and actions (2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. Teach him to witness through his personal testimony of salvation (Psalm 107:2). Teach him how to write out and practice simple thoughts and verses that can be used to explain what happened in his life (4-8 minutes).
 - a. He recognized he was a sinner
 - √ He should explain what sin is (give simple examples)
 - √ He should explain what the punishment for sin is
 - b. He understood who Jesus is and what He did to save him
 - √ He is the Son of God
 - √ He died in the place of all sinners
 - √ He was raised from the dead three days later
 - c. He understood he must accept salvation by faith
 - √ He should explain a condition/promise verse
 - √ He should tell when and where he did this
 - √ He should invite the listener to do this
3. Teach him to witness through the following methods
 - a. Give someone a gospel tract or a New Testament
 - b. Give the Jesus film to someone
 - c. Use the Evangel-Cube
 - d. Use the "Gospel Flipper-Flapper"
 - e. Use the Wordless Book

Training the Believing Child to Use the Wordless Book

Spend time in your class hour over a 6-12 week period, training the children how to share the gospel through the Wordless Book. Teach them the message and verse to use for each color. This could be done through a longer *special segment* time in class, or it could be done before the class with those who arrive early. One schedule is:

Week 1: Explain how to share truths from the gold page
Explain the verse for the gold page

Week 2: Explain the truths from the dark page
Explain the verse for the dark page

Week 3: Explain the truths from the red page
Explain the verse for the red page

Week 4: Explain the truths from the clean page
Explain the condition/promise verse

Week 5: Explain the truths from the green page
Explain the verses used for the green page

Week 6: Explain how to counsel for salvation
Explain how to counsel for assurance and growth



Additional Ideas

1. The above schedule could be taught over a 12-week period by explaining the truths one week, and then the verses for each page the following week.
2. Be sure to demonstrate on a child's level how to teach the truths on each page.
3. Encourage the children to pray for the salvation of specific friends or family members that they want to share the message with.

C. Teach *When* and *Where* to Witness

1. He can witness to anyone who is a lost sinner wherever they are. After he is trained, he can always be ready.
2. He can pray for God to open up an opportunity to witness to specific friends, neighbors, or classmates.



D. Teach the Child that He May be Persecuted for Witnessing

Jesus warned His disciples that there would be people who would treat them as cruelly as they treated Him (John 15:18-20). Others may mock or persecute the child who witnesses to others.

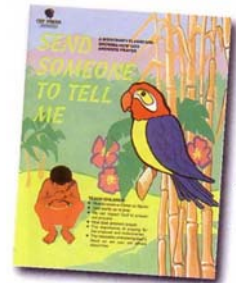
IV. Ways to Teach Witnessing

A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

1. Jesus and Nicodemus
2. Jesus and the woman at the well
3. CEF series on "First Christians"
4. CEF series on "Paul, God's Servant"
5. CEF series on "The Wordless Book Visualized"

B. Through Special Lessons

1. Heaven and How to Get There
2. Missionary stories (Madugu)
3. The Gospel Glove
- 4.
- 5.



C. Through Songs 🎵

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

D Through Making a Counseling Tool about Stewardship

1. This tool can be made small enough to use with believing children in one-on-one discipling situations.
2. This tool can be made large enough to use it before the entire class.

