

Leading a Child to Christ

The main goal of Hope's Haven is to introduce abused and neglected children to the saving power of Jesus Christ. As a result, our camp program is very evangelical. As a camp mentor, it is important that you take every opportunity to point your campers to Jesus. Be ready to share the Gospel as you feel led. Here are some pointers to help you.*

Before presenting the Gospel...

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say and that He will lead the child to Christ.
2. Pray that you will be aware when a child is ready to respond to the Gospel.
3. Pray for the child's salvation.
4. Pray that your words will be God's words.

The Gospel message is...

1. Jesus died on the cross and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
2. Like all people, I am a sinner and condemned to die (Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23).
3. God sent His son to save me (John 3:16).
4. Because God loves me, He sent Jesus to die on the cross for me (Romans 5:8).
5. Trusting in Jesus is the only way I can be saved (Acts 16:31).

You do not have to be a Bible scholar or a professional evangelist to lead a child to Christ. Being saved yourself is the only qualification. Keep in mind, though, to use words that a child can understand. For example, define big or potentially confusing words. In addition, avoid obscure wording like the ones below:

Confusing invitations...

1. "Will you invite Jesus into your heart?" (Kids may take this literally. It also does not have anything to do with the Gospel.)
2. "Will you surrender your life to Christ?" (The focus is on a person's action not faith.)
3. "To become saved, are you willing to give up your sins?" (This sounds like you have to clean up your life before coming to the Lord.)

These two invitations below, however, are biblically correct:

Clear invitations...

1. "Will you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose from the grave?"
2. "Will you accept Jesus Christ and trust him as your personal Savior?"

As you spend time with the campers, do not be so afraid of saying the wrong thing that you do not mention anything at all. Pray for opportunities and pray that God will give you the words to say, and He will answer those prayers according to His will. Do not be discouraged, though, if a child does not respond after hearing the Gospel message. You are still sowing the seeds. Continue to share the message throughout camp as God leads you.

(*The information in this section is based on information from AWANA International.)