

## LESSON TWELVE

# CHILD EVANGELISM (Continued)

### A. METHODS TO BE USED IN CHILD EVANGELISM:

There are many methods, which may be used in bringing the gospel message to the heart of the child. One must always remember the word of caution sounded at the close of the previous lesson. Everything that is said or done should be to point the child to Jesus. Time should not be spent just to entertain the children.

There is so much in the world today to attract children that it is impossible to compete with the world. When this is done, valuable time is wasted, our efforts are vain, and we find that we will be only spinning our wheels. We will be frustrated and keenly disappointed if we try to attract and hold children with programs and entertainment.

We must learn to have faith in two main means to save the child's soul and to keep him true. These are (1) God's Word, and (2) Holy Spirit. Therefore every chorus, story, and object lesson must bring out God's Word clearly and simply under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Any chorus, no matter how pleasing the melody, must be discarded if it does not contribute towards the desired result of saving the child's soul.

#### 1. SINGING SONGS AND CHORUSES:

Children love music and willingly respond to chorus singing. The choruses and songs should be bright and cheery. The melody and the words should be simple. The words should bring out a definite message and exalt Jesus.

Children love action choruses. A good method is to choose three or four children who know the chorus well. These children may stand before the others and lead them in the singing and actions.

Simple songs that can be quickly memorized are the best. The children may repeat the words several times before they are taught to sing them. Any word difficult in meaning should be explained to them. They must understand what they are singing. A brief discussion regarding the meaning of the chorus is always profitable.

Care should be exercised to see that everyone is participating and entering into the songs.

Many fine chorus books for children are available in religious bookstores.

#### 2. STORY TELLING:

Some people may think that this is the easiest part in the ministering to children. However, this is not necessarily true. Children love to listen to stories but these stories must be told with expression and action.

Actually the secret of story telling is to be able to place yourself into the story as one of the characters. Stories to be effective must come alive with action. Description must be clear and vivid. There must be excitement and suspense.

The best stories, of course, are Bible stories. Stories from the Bible bring out Bible truths. They are exciting and alive. They are full of action, fairly short and reach the climax quickly.

Stories, which are not Bible stories, must be chosen carefully. We must always remember that they are not for entertainment but to win souls. Therefore, they must be chosen to bring out some gospel truth.

Here are some characteristics to remember in the choice of stories to be used in Child Evangelism: (a) fairly short, (b) Full of action and excitement, and (c) about people with definite names. Every character should have a name; (d) Animals always create interest; and (e) A great deal of conversation.

The storyteller must change the tone of voice, his expression, etc., according to the character and action being related.

### 3. OBJECT LESSONS:

Again object lessons should be chosen to illustrate a gospel truth, not just to entertain. The Child Evangelist has hundreds of object lessons from which to choose. He may use almost anything to illustrate a truth. This is exactly what Jesus did when he referred to the lilies, sparrows, etc. There are many books, which may be purchased giving many object lessons.

To be most effective the object lessons should use things that the children are already familiar with. These lessons may be very simple or they may be quite complicated.

#### (a) Example of a simple Object Lesson:

A boy is called to the front. A single strand of string is tied around his two wrists and he is asked to break it, which he does with ease. This is repeated several times, each time adding more strands around his wrist. Finally he cannot break the string. There are too many strands.

This lesson is to illustrate the power of habit. The act of doing something wrong once can easily be broken. But soon the power of habit takes over and the person is bound with a chain that cannot be broken.

#### (b) Example of a more complicated lesson:

This lesson may be announced before hand for it may create curiosity and be an attendance builder.

The lesson is putting an egg into a quart milk bottle without breaking the egg. The egg is boiled hard, a fact which you do not announce beforehand. But even a hard-boiled egg will not go into the bottle without breaking. The children are asked just how it may be done and they are forced to acknowledge that it is impossible. It would take a miracle.

The egg entering the bottle is likened to a sinner entering the Kingdom of God. The trick is a simple one. Light two wooden matches and drop them into the bottle and quickly place the egg on top. The matches burn up the oxygen making a vacuum and pop goes the egg into the bottle. Without the fire this would be impossible. This shows that it takes the fire of the Holy Ghost to enter the Kingdom.

#### 4. VISUAL AIDS:

There is a wide selection of excellent visual aids to choose from: Films, slides, flannelgraph material, etc. Some of this material may be too expensive for everyone to use extensively but it should be used when needed. We should remember that a person remembers 80% of what he sees and 20% of what he hears.

Again we sound the warning that it is so easy to entertain. Our business is not to entertain but to win souls.

A black light is very useful and may be used in many ways as flannelgraph and similar material is used.

#### 5. THE CHALK BOARD:

With a little practice a person may learn how to draw pictures and illustrations on the blackboard. He should set up a board at home and practice. Actually learning to use the chalk is very simple.

#### 6. BIBLE GAMES, QUIZZES, SWORD DRILLS, ETC.

The Bible should be used extensively in Child Evangelism. Emphasis should be placed upon Bible Memorization. Children will respond to many methods of developing knowledge of the Bible.

### **B. POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

1. The attention span of a child is short. Therefore there must be changes and variety in any type of service conducted for children. Actually no lesson, story or activity should be more than 20 minutes.
2. The child must always grasp and understand what is being said and taught. To minister to a child we must always stay on his level.
3. Child Evangelism is not entertainment, but rather winning souls for Jesus Christ. We must remember that the child is saved in exactly the same manner as the adult—which is by repentance, water baptism in Jesus Name and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON TWELVE

SELF HELP TEST

A. Give THREE points to remember in conducting gospel services for children.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. What are the two main means to save a child's soul?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

C. What is the secret of good story telling?

D. Give three characteristics of good stories for children.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

E. Explain carefully what is meant by visual aids.