

6.2 How can we lead children to Christ following the invitation?

We have already discussed every part of the Bible lesson. The last part was the invitation, inviting or calling unsaved students to repentance and faith in Christ. In that invitation, the teacher told the children who wanted to receive Christ to go to a certain place so he could meet them there and help them with a little more teaching and with prayer. The invitation often is the last or nearly the last part of the Sunday school program proper. However, if some children respond to the invitation and go to the designated place, the teacher's job is not yet done for the week. He must stay after Sunday school and try to lead those responders to Jesus. This chapter will teach us how to teach and lead these responders.

HELPING THOSE WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO THE INVITATION

If the teacher has the opportunity to deal with responders after Sunday school, it is an immense help there can be two teachers, or at least a teacher and a helper. One of the teachers will lead the responders to Christ, and the other teacher or helper will stay with the other children. Even though Sunday school is officially over, the other children need someone to stay with them, or they will follow the group of responders and cause confusion. This "after Sunday school" time provides an excellent opportunity for the second teacher or helper to pray with those who are already believers about the problems of their everyday lives. The responsibilities of this teacher will be explained more fully in chapter 23. At this point we want to say only that his work with those who are already Christians is also a big help to the teacher who is trying to lead those to Christ who responded to the invitation. Since someone is paying special attention to those who are already believers, they will not be quick to try to go and bother the group that responded to the invitation. This will make it easier for the teacher to hold the attention of that group. And since others will not come later to mix in with them, it will make it easier for him to tell who is really responding to the invitation and who has really received Christ that day.

HELPING THOSE WHO DO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION

First, the teacher should take the children some distance away from the church and from the other group of children. The two groups should not be readily able to hear one another, and if they can be out of sight of one another, this is even better. When they are situated so that they will not bother one another or the adults coming into worship, the teacher can proceed with the teaching.

1. The teacher should explain the plan of salvation to all who have come, using plan of salvation flashcards if available, or some other visual.

The plan of salvation flashcards produced by Every Child Ministries have these main divisions on each card: A brief **teaching**, **explanation of the drawing** which appears on the front of the card, **Bible verses** that support the teaching, and **questions** the teacher may ask the students to test their understanding.

The last flashcard is different than the others. Instead of teaching, it gives a brief model prayer to give an idea how a child may pray who wants to receive Christ as Savior. The teacher may use the model prayer or the child may pray a similar prayer of his own.

2. The teacher should ask who was already received Jesus and who is ready to receive Him today.

Before asking children to pray, the teacher should talk with each child individually as much as the size of the group will permit, to see if he has already received Jesus or whether he wants to do so today. Sometimes children respond to the invitation because they just want to see the flashcards they may have heard other children talk about, or because they did not really understand the invitation. If some have already received the Lord and are sure of it, just pray a prayer of thanksgiving with them.

If they need to receive the Lord, make sure the prayer they pray asks for salvation, not just for other general things.

In asking who has received Jesus already, the teacher might say something like this: “As you have listened to this teaching some of you may have realized that yes, you have already received Jesus as Savior just as we have been talking about. Others of you may realize that you have not yet received Jesus, but you would like to do so today. In order to help you best, I need to know whether you have already received Jesus, or you would like to receive Him today. When I ask you, you can answer “I have **already** received Him,” or “**Today** I want to receive Him.” Then if there are some who respond both ways, separate the two groups.

Procedure for those who want to receive Jesus today for the first time:

- a. Ask whether they have questions about the teaching you have given (the teaching of the plan of salvation from the flashcards). If they ask pertinent questions, answer them carefully and make sure they understand. Put off any impertinent questions until you are finished.
- b. Ask them if they would like to pray to receive Jesus now. If the children choose to pray on their own, ask them to pray aloud “so you will know when they are finished and so you can add your amen.” Make sure they are praying for salvation and not just general prayers for other matters. If they follow the prayer on the card, make sure they know that it is not just saying a prayer, but their heart’s faith in Jesus and their decision to trust in Him that saves them. Lead them through the prayer phrase by phrase, stopping after each phrase so they can repeat it and make it their own.
- c. After they have prayed, ask the children:

What have YOU done about Jesus right now?

Any of these or similar answers could be proper responses: “I’ve put my trust in Him, I’ve believed in Him, I’ve asked Him to save me, I’ve made a decision to follow Jesus.” If they answer, “I prayed,” ask them what they prayed.

What has JESUS done for you right now?

Any of these or similar answers could be proper responses: “He has saved me, He has forgiven me, He has made me a Christian, He has given me a new life,” etc.

- d. Give them a verse of assurance, like John 1:12, John 3:15, Hebrews 13:5, or John 6:37b. Ask them what the verse says to them since they have received Jesus as their Savior.
- e. Write down their names and addresses and promise to pray for them. This list will also help you later in follow up. If you do not know them as children of church families, find out the family’s religious background.
- f. If they are from a non-biblical religious background, make it clear that giving you their name does not enlist them in the baptismal class. Make sure their families understand this if you think it might be a problem. Then keep your word. Do not enroll children for baptism without the parents’ permission.

CHILDREN HAVE BEEN BORN INTO GOD’S FAMILY! REJOICE!

Lead the children to Jesus!

Developed and copyrighted by Every Child Ministries,
“Hope for the forgotten children of Africa”
Please contact ECM for permission to reprint for use in other ministries.
PO Box 810 Hebron, IN 46341 USA email: ecmafrica@ecmafrica.org



LET'S REVIEW:

When it comes to leading children to Christ, what is the value of having two teachers or a teacher and a helper?

.....

What will the children do after Sunday school if they do not respond to the invitation?

.....

When the teacher faces the group who have responded to the invitation, what should he do first of all? Why?

.....

When leading children to Christ with ECM's flashcards, the last card is different from the others. What is the last card for?

.....

After teaching the plan of salvation, what should the teacher ask to determine whether some of the children may have received Jesus already? Write out the exact words you could use with the children:

.....

If a child wants to receive Jesus today, what should you encourage him to do?

.....

After a child has received Jesus, what two questions should the teacher ask him?

.....

Give two reasons it is important to write down the name, address, and religious affiliation of children who receive Jesus.

.....

Thomas led five children to Christ who were from a church that did not practice Biblical teachings. He signed them up for his church's baptismal class. What mistake did he make, and what should he have done?

LET'S PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Gather a small group of children from your village or neighborhood, and teach them the Plan of Salvation flashcards as a lesson. See if you can lead any of them to Christ following the suggestions in this chapter.