

## Introduction

"Teaching children the gospel in a way they can tell their friends"

Coke Trick- Big Idea- We have the most important message let's be sharing it.

2 Parts to this seminar

A. How to teach children the gospel

B. How to equip the children to be evangelists

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### A. How to Teach Children the gospel

What are some important characteristics of children we should be aware of as we come to teach them? 3 minutes

- They are a sinner who needs forgiveness
- They can have a string faith
- Concrete thinkers- not abstract thought until 11 and up- boys later than girls.
- From 8 yrs of age develops a strong sense of right and wrong.
- Clear limits- boundaries

- Enjoy stories
- Learning Styles- Auditory, Visual, Kinaesthetic/tactile.
- Looking for role models in later school years- our example is important.
- Developing their views about God
- Many Kids these days have no church background
- Want to please adults
- Children from 10-15- want to do things together. Friendship is key, and their friends have huge influence on them.

You once were all these things.

Spend some time trying to remember your own childhood.

This could give you some insights into teaching and understanding the children in your CRU groups.

### What makes the gospel clear to children?

- Teach by telling stories
- Teach one concept at a time
- Define words

### Teach by telling stories

- All the books I've looked at in preparing this seminar all say that this is the most effective way of teaching children.
- Why? Because stories are able to communicate abstract ideas to concrete thinkers.
- And it's not just effective to children. What do you remember most from Sunday's sermon? For many adults it's the stories used as illustrations, or the kid's talks.
- Story telling is a valuable tool. It is one of the major methods Jesus used for teaching- in fact around half of Jesus teaching in Luke's gospel is stories.
- Stories are very appealing to children. It catches their attention and imaginations.
- They can have a powerful impact in teaching points about the gospel.

- We can teach the stories from the bible to make the gospel clear. And other stories can have a huge impact.
- Read Cinderella thinks she's good enough by Ray Galea p25

### What was so effective about Ray's story?

It had a familiar context and familiar characters.

The concept that was taught was made clear by the story.

It caused conflict and made us grapple with the truth of the gospel.

- Stories can be given in a number of ways:  
auditory, visual, kinaesthetic-drama  
(Auditory- learn by listening; Visual- learn by what they see; Kinaesthetic- learn best by what they do or see others do)

Research into kids education shows that 25-30% are auditory, 50-65% are visual learners, and 10-20% are kinaesthetic learners

In your CRU groups- try and teach stories to these children in these ways. They see, hear and do the stories.

Some books that I really like that you will find helpful are

Children's talks- A Practical Guide

Dynamic Stories- David Goodwin- through Kids Reach

Creative Bible Stories- OAC Ministries

50 Christian Assemblies for Primary School by Chris Nicholls

Max7 website for great powerpoints and videos

Brick Testament

### Teach one concept at a time.

**Write down gospel in one sentence the gospel.**

- It is hard to do.

- **The Gospel- Jesus is both Lord and Saviour**

The gospel is multi-faceted.

Lots of dimensions to deal with.

In some of the readings into child education they say that greatest effectiveness in teaching children new ideas or concepts- keep it to one concept each talk.

And when you teach the gospel try and teach it in the rich language and varied way that it is expressed in the bible.

I know that I can easily fall into a rut and express it the same way. I find myself too easily falling in to 2 ways to live mode.

Try and teach the gospel using the many pictures and metaphors we find in the NT.

We are described as...

- unclean, clean
- blind, see
- lost, found
- shut out, welcomed in

- slave, free
- guilty, innocent
- sinful, holy
- dead, alive
- enemy, friend

- price for freedom has been paid
- been bought back
- language of redemption

### God sent a...

- rescuer
- redeemer
- priest
- saviour
- sacrificial lamb
- king

### Sacrificial system

- substitute (the lamb of God)
- taken our place
- language of atonement

The right response to this wonderful news is one of...

- accept
- trust
- follow
- repent
- believe
- faith

### Relationship picture

- family
- father welcoming back his wayward son
- shepherd searching for a lost sheep
- language of reconciliation

Gospel pictured as...

#### Courtroom scene

- God is judge
- declares us not guilty
- language of justification

#### Market place

- slavery, bondage

How to teach some abstract concepts - come up with a way of teaching these abstract concepts. You might have a story, an illustration, a game, a simple explanation.

- Repentance

- *what does it mean?*

*A change in mind that leads to a change  
life direction back to God and behaviour*

*How to teach repentance:*

*Key Bible Teaching- Luke 15- Prodigal Son  
Game (repenting hockey)*

*Memory verse (Acts 17:30) p19- Sandy's book*

- **Faith**

*Defined as knowing something, believing it  
to be true, and trusting yourself to it.*

*Good story- Roman Centurion- Luke 7 or  
Woman who touched Jesus robe in Mark 5.*

*Famous story- Blondin the tight rope walker who performed his act across Niagra Falls. It is reported that he wheeled an assistant across in a wheel barrow. During the performance he is supposed to have spoken to a small boy who was enjoying the show, "Well did you like that sonny?"*

*"Yes Mr Blondin. You're great"*

*"Do you think that I could wheel you across?"*

*"Easy! I've seen you do it with others"*

*"Then hop in and I'll give you a ride"*

*"Eh! I think I'd rather just watch"*

*While there is no way of verifying this  
conversation, its helpful in teaching faith  
involves action. The boy knew Blondin could do  
it, but wasn't willing to trust him.*

*Faith Chant*

*Game- Blindfold and trust person to guide  
you.*

- **Sin**

*To miss the mark- Romans 3:23- For all  
have sinned and fall short of the glory of  
God.*

*It is not doing right and it is doing wrong.*

*To Illustrate- Have to get 100% on a test, other  
wise fail. God's standard is perfection.*

*Have a Dart board- God's Standard is  
perfection. We all fall short.*

*Red Light, Green Light game.*

- **Grace**- the undeserved merrcy of God

Have a quiz- winners earn a prize. Give someone who doesn't do well a better prize. Not fair- but shown grace.

Play mercy- need to call out mercy if hurting.  
The person show mercy to the person and stops.

#### - Salvation

Show Salvation Video from What is the Bible.com

Stuck in the Mud- we get stuck in sin and need to be saved. We need God's gift that saves us.

#### - Forgiveness

To pardon or overlook. God offers to pardon us of our sin.

Not getting even on the outside or holding grudges on the inside.

Good story- Luke 7- the sinful woman- response is thankfulness to God.

Good Verse to learn- Colossians 3:13 - Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Do race carrying stuff that hinders  
Write sins on overhead, wash clean

#### - Sanctification

Set apart, free from sin, changed to become like Jesus.

Wizards, Elves, Giants- When you played the game, you played for one team until you were caught and then played for the other team. In the end everyone ended up on the same team. Changing teams also meant that everyone was expected to change behaviour. Once brought over you could no longer play for the old team. However, before you were brought onto your new team, you were not expected to play for your new team. When become a follower Jesus you change. You don't belong to the old team- you now change to live like Jesus since you are on his team.

## Don't change or Distort the gospel.

- *What are some ways we can easily misteach the gospel?*

\* *Vegetailise the gospel.*

*Moralise the message. Make good little children. When we do this we make it sound like being a follower of Jesus is a list of Do's and Don'ts. This unfortunately leaves children thinking they are saved by works.*

*We need to make sure we read the whole Bible through Jesus. In many Old Testament talks- we start with God, then go straight to response, leaving Jesus out.*

*We might be tempted to leave out harder bits. In preparing this seminar I listened to a conversation amongst some children's worker on the gospel coalition.*

*They sadly told of a curriculum that stopped teaching Jesus life at the Lord's Supper. They thought that Jesus death is too distressing for children. And they didn't teach the resurrection because this could only happen because he'd died.*

*This is tragic!*

*Obviously teach at an age appropriate level- but don't hide this key event..*

*We also might be tempted to leave out judgement, sin, punishment we deserve, enemies of God, our state.*

*Creative- KISMIF- Keep it Simple, Make it Fun*

- *Magic to introduce idea*
- *Drawing*
- *Drama Story Telling*
- *Puppets-*

- Narrated Drama
- Memory Verses
- Songs

Conclude- very sad missing out on a jelly bean. But it is even sadder to miss out on hearing the good news about Jesus, we need to pass on the good news.

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## **PART 2- Children Sharing the Gospel.**

### **CHALLENGE THEM**

Part of discipleship is to help children see that God has given them a mission.

They are involved in Jesus work.

They are called to help their friends come to follow Jesus.

A game you could play:

- Get them to think of people they can share with.

Pass Jelly Bean Game- Teaches the need to share the good news.

The game is like pass the parcel but jelly beans only ever make it up to halfway each time.

(music stops)

Children will get frustrated as they miss out.

### **EQUIP THEM**

A. Gospel beads

Possibly use the choices tract

B. Aeroplane

C. Book

D. ABC

E. GOD, MAN, GOD, What if you do, What if you don't

I have trained students at FIT using these. Students have shown them to CRU groups, classes, the whole school.

What other ways have you used??

## SUPPORT THEM

Pray- for people they are worried about. (THAC- Girl came wanting to know how she could get her parents to believe)

- For opportunities- write down names
- Celebrate when they do. At Sunday school kids would tell me.

Finish with a Trick- King of Hearts

## Challenging Children To Accept Christ

### Teach

- must be applied
- challenge children to respond to what they've learnt

### Issue

- power to manipulate
- children tend to want to please adults

### Tips:

#### 1. Their decision

- not their mums or dads
- not you, their teacher
- not their friends... they have to decide

#### 2. Big decision

- not just for today
- but for everyday for the rest of their life
- it's a big decision

#### 3. Count the cost

- friendships will change (my testimony - best friend walked away, no friends at school- became a Nigel)
- time and money

- what you say, do, think, watch, read...

#### 4. Time to think

- how long will depend on the situation

#### 5. Simple pattern for a prayer

- I'm sorry

- thank you for

- please help me...

#### 6. Tell parents

- don't hide

- be open with them

- invite questions

- spend time explaining what you have taught their child

- offer a short course like *Christianity*

*Explained for the parents*

Bible Tract

Wordless Book

A3 Paper and Scissors, pin board.

Need to bring

Coke trick and bag

King of Hearts trick

CRU resource- Eye Witness News

Rays Talk

Books to show