

Our Task In This Modern World

(Why Share Our Faith with our Children?)

1. God's message for salvation is for everyone

A. God commanded the disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

B. God's love extends to every individual in the world (John 3:16);

C. The promise of salvation was not given with age limits.

John 3:16—" . . . **whosoever** believeth . . . "

John 1:12—" . . . **as many as** received him . . . "

Romans 10:13—" . . . **whosoever** shall call . . . "

2. Children are lost in their sins

A. Children have a sinful nature.

Romans 3:23—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:12—"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Psalms 51:5—"Behold, I was born in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

B. Children need to be made aware of their condition before God.

David Livingstone, the famous Scottish missionary and explorer, said, "Our business is to teach children about sin and the Savior, without even a hint about a certain age to accept Christ. The Holy Spirit will, in due time, convict them of sin. When he convicts of sin, whatever the age, who are we to dare to interfere with His work? It is at this, of all times, that we show our sympathetic interest. Any child is old enough to accept Christ when he realizes that his sin is against God and that because of that sin, he is lost without Christ."

3. Scripture commands us to share our faith

The Teachings of Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:1-14,

The age which children should be shared our faith and or evangelized is often debated.

Read verse 1. The disciples came to Jesus with a concern of who to be greatest in the kingdom. Jesus answers them in two parts. He explains the requirement to enter the Kingdom first. How?

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Read verses 2- 3. • Christ begins this section speaking of a little child (v. 2)—little child = paidi6n.

In mark 9:36 shows the child was very little— “He took him in his arms.”

1. Adults are required to enter the kingdom as little children, depending humbly on God (vv. 3-4)—Little children, little children = paidi6n.
 - Adults must return to childhood attitudes, not actions. Mark 10:15
 - Children live in a natural environment of dependence.
3. The Lord Jesus placed great value on a little child (v. 5)—Little child = paidi6n. Children are important to God and they can believe in Him.
 - Jesus settled forever the question as to whether little children can believe and be saved (v. 6)—Little ones = mikros.
 - Said “ . . . little ones which believe in me . . .
 - Christ affirmed this was saving faith; “believe in me” the same words used in John 3:16; Acts 16:31.
 - Warns us not to offend believing children.
4. Christ gives a second warning about regarding children lightly (v. 10)—Little ones = mikros.
5. Christ taught the importance of one child (v. 12).
 - Rejoicing over each one saved (v. 13).
 - Not His will that one should perish (v. 14)—Little ones = mikros..
 - Not His will that one should perish (v. 14)—little ones = mikros.

4. Children are under attack

Children today are attacked on every side by the world’s influence.

5. Children can be born again not just adopting to our faith

Some people are skeptical and find it difficult to believe in the reality of child conversion. And there is **no** verse in the whole Bible which says that a child cannot come into a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

A. Children are readier to receive Jesus as their Savior.

1. Children have open, ready hearts.
2. Children are naturally humble, teachable, trusting.

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3. Tomorrow, young impressionable hearts may be hardened to the things of the Lord and His Word.

Frederick Douglas quotes: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men"¹

B. Children are more likely to have many years to serve in your family and the Lord.

But also, Many notable Christians, preachers and evangelists who were saved as children.

C. Children are dependent upon us to show them the way.

VI. Children are the future of our families, churches, communities and the entire nation's service providers.

If we do not share our faith with the children, what do you think will happen to the future?

A. God warns that if children are not taught, future generations will cease to follow His Word. See the example in **Judges 2:10-11.**

"A child is a person who is going to carry on what you started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, will attend to those things you think are important. You may adopt the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporation – and the fate of humanity is in his hands."

Abraham Lincoln

Study carefully Psalm 78:1-8.

B. If you win a child for Christ, you have saved an entire life. If you win an adult, you may have only saved a soul.

Tetwajja mu bulokozi kuwonyezbwa bizibu kyokka, naye okufuukira katonda olulyo (a generation): Eph. 2:19; so, treat children with an intentional mind of making a generation which will live after you and for God;

Turn therefore, God's Word Part of our Family Life

1. Relate God's Word to Your Family's Everyday

Activities

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

To the prepared Christian parent, there are endless opportunities to teach God's truths to children in daily life. In Deuteronomy, God commands parents to incorporate His

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Word into their daily thinking and speaking and living, from morning till bedtime. Try singing hymns or choruses as you wash dishes,

Talk about the things of the Lord as you take the children home from church or school.

When you go for a walk, admire the wonders of God's creation and praise Him together.

Let children see your faith in God in your responses to day-to-day happenings a dented fender (**a Hurt Guard**), a financial crisis, a job promotion, a serious illness.

Remember. As you answer the many questions children ask each day, as you talk to them about the day's events, as you show them how to behave at home, at school and at play—you are teaching them patterns of thinking, speaking, and acting. Pray that your teaching will always be according to the Word of God.

a. Equip your children to face difficulties in the Christian walk.

Children receive much wrong information, and they face many evil influences. Their daily experiences with both peers and teachers are bound to create questions and may also generate doubts.

Remember, the world seeks to give them a life view different from that of **biblical world view**.

b. Take a serious interest in your children's activities , ideas and opinions .

Ask gently probing questions. Then listen to your children as they answer. When you see problems, help your children to understand the issues involved. Use your family worship times to examine together what the Bible says in answer to these problems. But be careful not to give in to the temptation to lecture.

2. Plan Structured Times of Bible Teaching for the Family

In addition to the informal instruction, you may do throughout the day, be sure to set aside definite times to **study** God's Word. If father is not there, mother can lead the family in a devotional time (Proverbs 1:8). Here are several essentials of family worship:

a. Choose a time that suits everyone . Vs. 7

When children are small, the best time to gather the family is often in the early evening just before they go to bed. As the children become older, they have various commitments in the evenings, and the best time could be during or after the evening meal. Whatever time you choose for your family, schedule family worship time regularly and ask God to help you keep to it.

*Lesson: Why Share Our Faith With Our Children?***b. Keep your Bible time age-appropriate .**

For children under four, take a few minutes each day to read a Bible verse or short portion of Scripture, pray, and perhaps sing a Christian song. As the children become older, you can use a longer passage and include an activity or two.

c. Encourage children to take part.

Worship is not Dad preaching a sermon at the children for twenty minutes. It must be a time the whole family enjoys. Remember that children love to participate, and they learn most by doing.

d. Use the Bible, select passages children can easily understand.

There are a number of excellent Bible storybooks and devotional guides you may use, if you wish. However, these materials should be supplements. Nothing can replace the Word of God. Children need to learn to listen to what God has said, not simply to what others have written about Him.

As soon as your children are old enough to read, encourage them to begin reading from the Word of God for family worship. A child can look up Bible verses and read them to the others, or you may all take turns reading verses from the Bible. Use your family times to make your children comfortable in the Scriptures.

e. Sing hymns and choruses.

If your family likes to sing, you may include a chorus or two. Perhaps small children could act out a chorus, such as "Only a Boy Named David, or a Bible story, such as that of the Good Samaritan. Some children also enjoy leading songs as the family sings.

f. Learn and Review Bible verses.

By helping children to memorize Scripture, you are giving them a treasure far greater than the largest bank account. God's Word in their hearts can protect them from sin, guide them in decisions, renew their minds, and give them the right words as they witness to friends.

As the family repeats together great verses and passages of the Bible, you can build each member's faith and strengthen family bonds. Memorizing takes time and discipline, but be encouraged. The verses you learn together will go with your children throughout their entire lives.

g. Share prayer requests and have a time of prayer.

As a family you can pray for your pastor, missionaries, relatives, friends, and leaders of your country, among others. Consider starting a family prayer notebook and let one of the older children record requests and answers to prayer. Avoid flowery, recited prayers. Make your prayers simple and sincere. Help your children learn to talk to God

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from their hearts. Also, use your family worship time as a place where children learn to pray aloud before others.

h. Value your worship and testimony time.

Real-life stories are powerful. Try sharing missionary news or reading an excerpt from a Christian biography. Occasionally you may find it profitable to share ways that God has been working in your personal life and encourage children to do the same.

i. Keep every activity Short and Interesting.

Many a family worship time has become tedious to children and difficult to maintain because it becomes drawn out. While every family is different, ten to fifteen minutes is a good average worship-time length.

Be sensitive to little ones with short attention spans and to teens facing hours of homework. You cannot include all the suggested parts in every time of family worship. Bible reading and prayer are essential. Add other aspects according to the time available and the particular needs of your family.

When should we share our faith?

C. Now is the time to reach the children. 2Cor. 6:2

***"Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man."* (Rabindranath Tagore)**

¹Stephen F. Olford, *Christian and You*, (Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmann Publishing Co., 1958) . Used by permission.

²William Benke and Milt Bryan, "The World's Most Fruitful Field," *Evangelizing Today's Child*, Vol. 4, No. 6 (November 1975): p. 44. Used by permission.