

Giving an Invitation

Why Should You Give an Invitation?

- God invites children to come to Him (Mark 10:14).

“But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”
- It gives you a way to carefully counsel those wanting to receive Christ.

Principles for Giving a Salvation Invitation

- **Pray** for and **expect** the Holy Spirit to use God’s Word to show the child he needs a Savior.
- Be careful what you say to the child.
- Give the invitation in every class after the message of salvation has been taught.
 1. In the conclusion of a Bible lesson
 2. After a song
 3. When your memory verse centers around salvation
 4. With an object lesson or special story
- Keep it brief.

Briefly review what you have already taught.

 - ☞ **Admit** you are a sinner.
 - ☞ **Believe** that Jesus paid for your sins when He died on the cross and shed His blood.
 - ☞ **Choose** to turn to Christ and trust Him alone for your salvation.
- Make it personal by using the word **you** frequently.
- Make it voluntary—it’s an invitation.

Procedures for Giving an Invitation

1. Use a quiet, reverent voice.
2. Give the invitation with love, Christ's love—children are responding to the Lord Jesus.
3. Use the same concepts and terminology that you used when teaching the salvation message (e.g., be saved, have everlasting life, become one of God's children).
4. Read and explain a Scripture verse which has God's condition (requirement) and promise of salvation clearly stated so the children will know the invitation is God's invitation.

| Scripture | God's Condition (Requirement) | God's Promise |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| John 3:16 | | |
| Acts 16:31 | | |
| John 1:12 | | |
| Romans 10:13 | | |

Steps in Giving an Invitation

1. Review the need of a Savior.
 2. Review the way of salvation.
 3. Read and explain a salvation invitation verse, one with God's condition (requirement) and promise.
 4. Have the children close their eyes at this point.
 5. Ask for a response to indicate their desire for counseling—use the words “show me.”
- Choose one way to have them respond—vary this response from week to week.



- “Show me by raising your hand.”
- “Show me by opening your eyes.”
- “Show me by (going to a specific place).”

- 6.** Give directions as to where the children can meet you for counseling—use the words “meet me.”

Be sure to explain why they are meeting you.

- “After class, meet me by the piano so I can show you from God’s Word how you can be saved.”
- “Those who raised their hands may come now and meet me at the back table so I can show you how you can become a child of God.”

Demonstration #1

As you hear the demonstration of giving an invitation, observe the following:

- ☞ Look at and notice the visuals that are used.

After the demonstration:

- ☞ What visual aids were used?

Dark heart—Help the child see his need.

Red cross—Help the child know that there is a Savior.

Clean heart—Help the child understand salvation.

Demonstration #2

As you hear the demonstration given in an actual class setting, observe the following:

- ☞ See if you can identify the six steps of the invitation.

After the demonstration:

- ☞ Did you see the six steps?

Other Arrangement

The first three steps of the invitation are interchangeable. You could develop the invitation in the following order.

1. Read the invitation verse from the Word of God.
2. Review the need of a Savior.
3. Review the way of salvation.

Demonstration #3

As you listen to the demonstration, observe the following:

- ☞ Listen for the steps of the invitation and the order they are presented.

Additional Examples of Invitations

Example A

The Bible says you and I have sinned and deserve to be punished for our sin. The Lord Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross and gave His blood to take the punishment for your sin and my sin. Perhaps you know these facts, but you have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus as the only one who can forgive your sin and give you everlasting life. Are you willing to tell God that you are a sinner and need a Savior? Will you believe in the Lord Jesus today? The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that . . ." (John 3:16). Let's have every head bowed and every eye closed.

If today you would like to tell the Lord Jesus you are believing in Him as the only one who can forgive your sin and give you life with Him forever, would you show me by raising your hand so I'll know this is what you want to do? If you raised your hand to tell me that you want to believe in the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and everlasting life, please meet me by the piano after class. I'll show you from God's Word how you can believe in the Lord Jesus for forgiveness of sin. Let's pray.

Example B

The disciples truly believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Have you believed in the Lord Jesus, God's Son, and received His gift of everlasting life? If you have not believed in the Lord Jesus, listen to this special verse from God's Word—"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47).

To have everlasting life means to have God's forever life. The Lord Jesus will come to live in you. His life makes you ready to live with Him in Heaven someday and His life gives you the strength to live in a way that pleases Him each day.

To have God's gift of everlasting life you must believe in the Lord Jesus for forgiveness of sin. Do you know that you have sinned? Your sin must be punished. The Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin when He died on the cross and gave His precious blood. He made the way for you to have your sin forgiven. Will you believe in the Lord Jesus and receive His gift of everlasting life today? No one else can make that decision for you.

Please bow your head and close your eyes. If today you are willing to tell the Lord Jesus you are a sinner and you are believing in Him for God's gift of everlasting life, will you show me by opening your eyes and looking up here at me? (Pause) For those who are looking up, please come and stand by me. After we pray, we'll go into the next room and I will show you from God's Word how you can have your sins forgiven by believing in the Lord Jesus for everlasting life.

Teaching Aids on How to Give an Invitation

1. *Children's Ministry Resource Bible* (CEF Press®)
www.cefpress.com
 - Full-page article "Giving an Invitation to the Unsaved Child" (pp. 1145-1147)
2. *Teach Kids*® magazine www.teachkidsmag.com
 - Many ideas and helps for teaching