

Teach Your Children To Witness
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(Presenter's Notes)

An evangelist professor asked his students how many of them have heard a sermon on the home over the past few years. Nearly every student raised a hand – and that's good. The home is a premier subject for preachers. But when he asked a follow-up question, almost without exception no students raised a hand. The question: "How many of you have heard a message explaining either how to present the gospel to a child, or how to teach your children to witness?"

Both elements of this question are vital. I think we spend so much time trying to protect our children that we overlook the need to prepare them to make a positive impact through the gospel.

Illustration

Josh, who turned fourteen last summer, led his little sister to Jesus Christ when he was ten. He was equipped to be a witness for the Lord because he had seen his father lead him to faith in Christ and because the children's pastor at church had helped him to know what to say. When Josh went into the youth group, one of the first things he wanted to do was to take the youth evangelism classes his church offers.

Over the past six months or so, Josh has led three adults to Christ, and several other friends have had similar experiences.

- ❖ **If children can understand salvation, they can also understand how to present the Good News.**

Illustration

In the second grade Hannah, now in the fourth, asked every single child in her public school classroom if they knew Jesus in a personal way. She also made invitations for all her classmates to come and witness her baptism, and this was her idea!

- ❖ **Deuteronomy 6:4-7** summarizes the heart of our faith:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. We are to teach our children this as well. Part of that training includes talking about the things of

God when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

- ❖ **Our love for God should be obvious, written on the door frames of our houses and tied symbolically to our bodies! In other words, our faith should be a very public matter.**

Illustration

A couple of years ago Josh was with his father at the bank. He spoke with the teller about the Lord, discovering she loved and followed Jesus. As they left, Josh said, “Dad, she is a Christian, isn’t she?” “She sure is,” he replied. Impressed that the teller spoke so openly about Jesus, Josh said, “Wow, Dad, no one talks about Jesus like that in public – well, no one except you. While his father was glad Josh saw a positive example of consistent witnessing in his life, he was struck by his recognition that witnessing was not the normal part of the everyday life of most believers.

- ❖ **The reason most of us don’t talk to lost people about Jesus is that we don’t talk with saved people about Him!**
- ❖ **When speaking of Jesus begins to pervade our lives, teaching our children to proclaim Him will not be so difficult.**
- ❖ **How can the church, including ministers and parents, teach our children to witness? Believe in your children. We need to raise the bar of Christianity in America, starting with our homes!**
- ❖ **Richard Baxter, the great Puritan pastor who witnessed a mighty movement of God in his day, said we would never see God move in a general way unless He first moves in our homes.**

Principles and Ideas for Witnessing

1. **Model Witnessing** – it is caught more than taught. Our children will do less of what we say and more of what we do. Are you modeling a witnessing lifestyle?
2. **Take the Kids with you when you Witness**
 - Door-to-door, in parks, at car washes, and others.
 - Use a simple tool.
 - Gospel tracts

Illustration

Larry Caldwell was a builder. He had a passion to help disabled people build a ramp outside their house to provide easy access with their wheelchairs. He brought his

children along with some young people from his church when he embarked on several of these projects. The kids and the youth were excited to help in whatever little jobs they were given. They sawed wood, sanded down the pieces, hammered nails, etc.

They also had the opportunity to give these homes gospel tracts, tell Bible stories to the children in the homes and shared Jesus with them.

One big satisfaction Larry got was when his children and these young people indicated they want to be missionaries to share Jesus with others and to witness for Christ. Yes, getting our kids involved in witnessing rubs off on them.

3 **Teach Children To Witness According To Their Strengths** – This is critical for all believers, but especially for children.

* Learn your children’s strengths and encourage them.

* Make it fun!

* This opens the door to witness in a winsome manner.

4. **Use Wordless Book:** A book with various colors to explain the gospel:

Black – we are sinners; we do wrong things and disobey. Our life is black with sin.

Red – Jesus came to die for me on the cross, shedding his red blood for me.

White – Jesus died on the cross to wash away my sins and my life becomes white as snow.

Yellow – then we can go and live with Jesus in the beautiful city made of gold.

5. **Gospel Gloves**

6. **Flipper Flapper – similar to Wordless Book.**

Black heart – my heart is full of sin. I do wrong things and disobey.

Red Cross – but Jesus came and die for me on the cross by shedding his blood.

White heart – Jesus cleansed me and make my heart as white as snow.

Yellow circle – Jesus will bring us to live in the beautiful city in heaven made of gold.

7. **Backpack Evangelism**

• Sheets of paper

■ Take a piece of paper and draw an X or some words like “lie” and “steal” on the paper; lay it aside.

■ Hold up a blank piece of paper and explain that this is how God wants to make our souls clean.

■ Then hold up the other paper that has been marked up.

■ Point to the words and say, “When we make wrong choices like lying or stealing, we end up writing these bad things on our souls. We messed it up.

■ Then crush up the paper that has the words and toss it away.

■ Hold up the clean sheet of paper and say, “God gives me a clean sheet of paper, a clean soul, every time I repent.”

- Books
 - Hold up some books and say, “These books can get heavy after carrying them around all day long, right?”
 - Then say, “Life can get heavy sometimes too, right? Allow some to share about how heavy life gets.”
 - Ask them, “Did you know that Jesus has promised to make life lighter? When you invite him into your heart, He carries life for us!”

- Pencils
 - Hold up the unsharpened pencils and let everyone look at them. Then ask, “Can we write our homework with these pencils?”
 - Then ask, “What do we need to do before we write our homework? Kids will say, “Sharpen them.”
 - Say, “Did you know that when you live without Jesus, you are like this unsharpened pencil? God can’t write anything nice in our lives when we remain unsharpened.”
 - Who wants to be a sharpened pencil for God?

8. **The Salvation Bag**

The concept is similar to the Wordless books. The bag has different segments of different colors.

GREY/BLACK: When you show THE GREY OR BLACK outer cover of the bag, you mentioned that our lives are like this color, full of sins because of the wrong things we do.

RED: Then you turn out the next color RED, saying that Jesus had come to die for us and shed His blood on the cross. He is willing to forgive us if we accept Him as our Forever Friend.

WHITE: Turn to the WHITE segment of the bag. But Jesus will forgive us and washes away our sins. He will make our heart white as snow and it will be clean.

YELLOW: Turn to the YELLOW segment of the bag. When we accept Jesus and live like what He wants us to, He has promised to take us to a beautiful home in the heavenly kingdom. This is heaven, the golden city where we can live with Jesus forever.

9. **‘Ask Me Now’ Pins**

- * Child puts on pin and knock on neighbor’s door.
- * When someone opens the door, child points to pin and neighbor will ask her ask her what she wants.
- * Child starts sharing Jesus and gives neighbor a book to read.

10. **Gospel Tracts**

- Children can use the Primary Treasure tracts to share with their friends and classmates.
- Use Children Evangelism Fellowship Gospel tracts for kids to share the good news.

11. **Sharing Jesus Bookmarks**

12. **Gracelink Story Flipchart**

- ❖ **Teach children that success is in sharing, not winning. Winning is the work of the Holy Spirit.**

❖ **If we can help them discover that knowing Jesus is the most important thing in the world, they'll soon conclude that the most important thing they can do is to tell others.**