



Evangelism— Finding Others Who Need to Know

by Sharon Ellard

I recently listened to adult Christians describe memories of childhood witnessing. Certain words stood out:

Fearful

Guilty

Awkward

Embarrassed

Didn't know what to say

Didn't know how to start

Sound familiar?

I grew up believing I should tell my friends about Jesus. I wanted to tell them, but I wasn't sure how to do it naturally and effectively. Most of the time, I felt very guilty.

Today, our goal is to equip kids to find others who need to know Jesus.

Here is a "witnessing starter kit for kids." If you're a children's pastor, give copies of this page to Sunday School teachers. If you're a teacher, transfer ideas from this article to a calendar. Scatter the ideas throughout the months ahead as reminders to periodically equip your students to "find others who need to know Jesus."

1 Encourage elementary children to start a friendship prayer journal so they can pray for unsaved friends by name. Pre-readers might ask parents to

help place photos of friends and family in a prayer album. Prayer keeps kids alert to times when the Holy Spirit wants to use them to connect their friends with a new Friend—Jesus.

2 Brainstorm ways to introduce unsaved friends to Christian media: Christian music CDs, Christian websites with games, or Christian videos like Veggie Tales or "Who Cares?" from BGMC.



3 Kids today want to make the world a better place. Plan "make a difference" ministry projects that will draw positive attention to what kids are doing in Sunday School. Ask students to invite friends to help with the projects.

4 Use spiritual illustrations that

kids can repeat during the week. For example, Rob Evans, known as the Donut Man, uses a doughnut to illustrate life without Jesus—there's a hole in the middle of your heart. Include similar illustrations in your Sunday School lessons. Encourage the kids to repeat them to unsaved friends.

5 Introduce kids to spiritual belongings. A few years ago, it might have been WWJD bracelets or Bob and Larry pencils. Today this might be FROG pins (stands for "Fully Relying On God"), or PowerMark comics.

6 Introduce stats about kids and salvation. Build confidence that childhood is the best age to witness.

7 Teach them fun "magical" illusions or paper-folding stories that will be fun to show to friends. Watch for these on the Internet or in teaching resource books, and periodically include them in Sunday School lessons.

8 Create a prayer center where kids can write the names of their friends and record spiritual conversations.

9 Ask adults in the church who became Christians as children to share salvation stories—especially if their testimonies involve being influenced by childhood friends.

10 Ask your pastor and board members to brainstorm ways they would witness if they were kids today. Have kids select their “Top 10” from the list. Print and distribute these to the kids, pastor, and board.

11 Exchange “faith stories” in Sunday School about how Jesus is helping class members. Encourage kids to watch for good times to repeat the stories to unsaved friends.

12 Impress on kids the importance of showing others through their choices as well as telling others with words about the change Jesus brings.

Questions for Further Study—

1. Choose which of the 12 ideas in this article are do-able for the children you serve. Write down ideas for putting those methods into practice.



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