

# Counseling the Unsaved Child for Salvation

## Principles for Counseling

1. Ask for wisdom and discernment as you talk to the child.
2. Always use God's Word as you counsel.
3. Find a quiet place away from distractions, if possible.
4. Show Christ's love—speak with a gentle, quiet voice.
5. Call the child by name—try to gain his confidence.
6. Don't assume the child is saved for responding to the invitation.

“At every step in leading a child to Christ, pray for, look for, and expect the Holy Spirit to convict of sin, to reveal the truth of the Gospel, and to illumine the child's mind so he can grasp the saving truth.”

—J. Irvin Overholtzer

## Ask Thought-Provoking Questions that Require More than “Yes” or “No” Answers

### 1. Discover why the child responded

*Why did you come to talk to me? OR*

*What would you like to talk to me about?*

(Counsel according to the child's needs.)

*Have you ever done this before?*



### 2. Ask questions to discern the child's understanding of his NEED of salvation

*Why do you need the Lord Jesus as your Savior?*

*What is sin?*

*Can you name something that is sin?*

*What is God's punishment for sin?*

*Can you do anything to get rid of your sin?*

What if the child says he has never sinned?

- **Show Romans 3:23 if the child seems to lack understanding.**



### 3. Ask questions concerning the **WAY** of salvation



*Who is the Lord Jesus?*

*Why did God send His Son into the world?*



*What did the Lord Jesus do for you?*

*Why is the Lord Jesus the only one who could take away your sin?*

*What happened to the Lord Jesus three days after He was buried?*

- **Show a Bible verse about the death of the Lord Jesus—1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

### 4. Ask questions to discern the child's understanding of how to **RECEIVE** God's salvation



- **Explain a condition-promise verse—make it personal to the child John 1:12**

- **Explain God's condition for salvation.**

*What does God promise you in this verse?*



- **Explain God's promise of salvation.**

- He will make you His child . . .

### 5. Bring the child to the place of decision



*Would you like to receive the Lord Jesus now?*

*Would you like to pray and tell God . . . ?*

- If the child says “no,” ask “why not?”
- If the child says “yes,” encourage him to pray in his own words. Help him formulate a prayer.
- If he needs further help, guide him step by step.



## 6. Give assurance of salvation to the child using the Word of God



- Ask **questions** after he prays

*Whose child are you now? OR*

*What has the Lord Jesus just done for you? and then—*

*How do you know?*

- **Read the same condition-promise verse to the child, this time inserting the child's name in the verse.**

- Show the child **Hebrews 13:5b, 6a.**

## 7. Teach the child concerning confession of sin— 1 John 1:9

- Jesus lives in him to give power to do right.
- CONFESS means to “agree with God that you have sinned”.
- Confess the moment you sin and thank God for His forgiveness

## 8. Teach the child helps in spiritual growth



- Pray
- Read the Bible
- Obey the Bible
- Tell others.
- Go to church and Sunday school

## 9. Before the child leaves, do the following:

- Have him say a thank-you prayer
- Pray aloud for him by name
- Give him a tract
- Get his name and address for follow-up

## What IF?

### Teaching Aids to Help You in Counseling Children

1. Soul-winning aids (*CEF Press*®) [www.cefpres.com](http://www.cefpres.com)
  - Gospel Flipper-Flapper™
  - Special Agents for Christ: Kids Reaching Kids
  - Gospel at Your Fingertips
  - How to Lead a Child to Christ Leaflet
  - Wordless Book
  - Gospel Gloves
2. Tracts (*CEF Press*)
  - “First Steps”
  - “Heaven . . . How to Get There”
  - “How to Have a Special Friend”
  - “Steps in Growing”
3. *Children’s Ministry Resource Bible* (*CEF Press*)
  - Full-page articles
    - “The Message of Salvation Hand” (p. 923)
    - “The Promise Hand” (p. 1541)
    - “The Growth Hand” (p. 1549)
    - “The Wordless Book” (p. xxv)
    - “Counseling the Unsaved Child for Salvation” (p. 1148)