

LEADING A CHILD / YOUNG PERSON TO CHRIST

If you have never had the privilege of leading someone to Christ before and the opportunity arises, I would suggest that you seek out another experienced leader to assist you. If you have lead someone to Christ before, I would suggest that you ask if it would be OK if another leader who hasn't lead someone to Christ could sit in with you. It is always wise to counsel with another if possible. It keeps you accountable and also gives another to sit and pray as you respond.

- Even though it will be discussed in the section regarding legalities, let me just impress on you now some very important principles of counselling on camp.
- Never be alone out of sight with a camper,
- Counsel same sex, if you are approached by someone of the opposite sex, approach another leader of the same sex as the young person to sit in with you. Insist on it with the young person. It is for your protection, just as much as for theirs.
- Avoid counselling late at night - If it is the Holy Spirit doing a work in their life, pray with them, send them to bed and deal with the issue in the light of day when you and the young person will be much more emotionally stable and you will know any decisions they make will be rational not just based on emotions and irrationality that comes from tiredness.

Below you will find a basic overview of the process of leading someone to Christ using the word of God. It is essential that in any Christian counselling situations that you are always seeking opportunities to direct that person straight to the word of God.

A. ADMIT YOUR NEED (Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23, 6:23) Whether young or old, we need to get to the point where we realize that we are sinners and because of that we are unfit to approach God without help. We need cleansing because sin is separating us from God. We need to recognise the need for forgiveness and we need to want to be forgiven.

B. BELIEVE THAT CHRIST IS OUR MEANS OF FORGIVENESS (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18) Young people who have learnt about Jesus will often find it easy to accept the Jesus can meet their needs, especially the basic one for the forgiveness of sins. This step may be a little more difficult for a young person who has little or no experience of Christ. Take the time to explain who Jesus is. Also take the time to use questioning to confirm that any young person has a clear understanding of who Christ is and what He has done for them.

C. COUNT THE COST (Luke 14:28) Jesus plainly warned His disciples about the cost of following Him. Luke 14:26-33, Luke 18:18-23 and John 4 are all examples of where Jesus calls people to count the cost. It is vital that we do the same.

Here are some examples of what the cost of following Christ might involve for the young people.....

*Making time each day to pray and read the Bible

*Serving others without being asked



- *Being involved in a Christian group when they go home
- *Being willing to be known as a Christian around their friends and schoolmates and understand the consequences that may have.
- *Making choices that will please God not their peers
- *Possibly being teased or rejected for their faith

The young person must be clear about the cost. They must choose if they can pay the price. - This is when we need to pray

D. DECIDE OR DO SOMETHING (1 Peter 2:22-25) This step can only come after the other three. Don't rush. If a person only makes a premature commitment without progressing through everything above, they may have an incomplete perspective of who Christ is and may become disillusioned with the faith. Pray - give the person time, maybe get together again later for another chat once they have had time to soak it all in. If the Holy Spirit is at work the flame won't fade.

(Adapted From:- Early Harvest - leading a child to Christ by John Prince 1976)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Have the young person pray covering all the points mentioned above. They may lack confidence and want to repeat a prayer after you. That's OK.

Other issue may arise in a counselling situation. Keep James 1: 5 close to your heart.

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should pray to God, who will give it to him; because God gives generously and graciously to all, you must believe and not doubt at all..."

Also consider the following set of verses

John 3:17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 10:9 For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

(New Living translation)

