

# **Counseling a Child: The Art of Asking Questions**

## **Two Assumptions**

- The message of salvation has already been clearly presented
- An invitation for the child to respond has been given

## **Principles for Counseling**

- Rely on the Holy Spirit to give salvation
- Ask God for wisdom and discernment as you talk to the child
- Always use God's Word as you counsel
- Find a quiet place to counsel away from distractions
- Show Christ's love—speak with a gentle, quiet voice
- Call the child by name—try to gain his confidence
- Do not assume child is saved because he responds to the invitation
- Ask questions

## **Determining the Child's Understanding of the Gospel**

- Diminish distractions when child responds
  - Sit in a quiet place
  - Create a friendly atmosphere
- Discover why the child responded by asking questions
  - “Why did you come to talk to me?”
  - “What would you like to talk to me about?”

(The answer determines how you will counsel the child)

- Discern the NEED of salvation

Ask questions—find out what child understands about sin

What if the child says he has never sinned?

Some children may not be ready to receive Christ as Savior

- Discern the WAY of Salvation

Ask questions—find out what the child understands about Jesus

Show a Bible verse about the death of Jesus

Determine the child's understanding of Jesus' death as the perfect sacrifice for sin

## **Leading the Child to Christ**

- The invitation to receive God's salvation

Base questions on the invitation verse

➤ Explain God's condition for salvation

**A**—Admit to God you are a sinner and desire to turn from your sin

**B**—Believe the Lord Jesus died for you and is the only one who can forgive your sin

**C**—Call on the Lord Jesus, receiving Him as your own Savior

➤ Explain God's promise of salvation

- The place of decision

“Would you like to receive the Lord Jesus right now?”

If the child says “Yes,” encourage him to pray

If the child says “No,” check for understanding

- The work of the Holy Spirit

## **Assurance of Salvation**

- Use the Word of God to answer questions

“Whose child are you now?”

“What has Jesus done for you?”

“How do you know?”

Condition/promise verse

Hebrews 13:5-6

1 John 1:9

- Encourage the child in spiritual disciplines

**There is no greater joy  
than leading a child to a personal relationship  
with the Lord Jesus.**