



Gospel Guidelines: Defining a Clear and Biblical Presentation of the Gospel

For more than 75 years God has been using the ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® to reach countless children for Christ. Although times and cultures have changed drastically over the years, one core thing has remained the same: a presentation of the Gospel message in every club. In a world where wrong is being portrayed as right and good is being portrayed as evil, it is important to be reminded of where we as an organization stand in the area of a solid and true presentation of the greatest “good news” ever told. For strength in the organization, there needs to be unity in doctrine, literature, methods and training. We must not compromise the truth for the sake of fitting in with today’s culture; rather we must speak the truth in love, trusting God to use us as His vessels who carry His message to the lost.

As an organization dedicated to evangelizing and discipling boys and girls for Christ, we continually want to evaluate what is being taught by *CEF*® workers to be sure children are always hearing a clear and complete presentation of the Gospel message and are being given an opportunity to respond to what they have heard. The following statement is a declaration of the position of *CEF* for the purpose of clarification and all those who teach in *CEF* will be guided by it. It will be incorporated into our literature, taught in our training schools around the world, and taught in training classes.

Child Evangelism Fellowship will stand true to the Word of God in its ministry to boys and girls. We must teach the children simply, yet thoroughly. We must use effective methods but never change the message. The truth of the Word of God, enlightened by the Holy Spirit alone, can change children’s lives. As we present this biblical message, which must be both complete and clear, our prayer and goal is that every unsaved child will trust the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

The Message of Salvation for Training and Literature in CEF®

The Gospel

The Gospel of the grace of God (good news), which originated in the eternal purpose of a holy, righteous and loving God, is a specific message about God's free provision of salvation to sinful and rebellious man who is separated from Him. This provision is through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the perfect God-man, who performed a perfect and complete work of salvation by the shedding of His precious blood on the cross and by His resurrection from the dead, clearly demonstrating God's complete satisfaction with that substitutionary death. He now lives in Heaven at the right hand of God with all power as the all-sufficient Savior.

The Gospel is God's righteous way to save unrighteous sinners. It is the grace of God provided through the cross of Christ. It is God's solution to man's predicament. It is essentially Jesus Christ Himself, who He is and what He has done in accomplishing a reconciliation of sinful man with a holy and loving God. Now a righteous God can offer complete pardon, justification and eternal life.

Any man, woman or child can receive all the blessing of this Gospel through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Salvation is by God's grace alone, based on Christ's cross-work alone, and is received by faith alone.

The Gospel then is a message which proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God—crucified, buried, risen again and exalted to the right hand of the Father.

The Source of the Gospel

God shows His grace, mercy and love in providing salvation through His Son. Ephesians 2:4, 8; John 3:16; Acts 3:26; Titus 3:5

The Person of Jesus Christ

1. He is God, the Son. Acts 9:20; Romans 1:1-4; John 20:31; Galatians 1:15-16
2. He is the perfect man. Galatians 4:4; Acts 2:22; Matthew 18:11; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 3:14

The Work of Jesus Christ

1. Substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for sin. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 26:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:14, 22b; 1 Peter 3:18
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Acts 2:32; Romans 4:24-25; Acts 4:33; 2 Timothy 2:8
3. The exaltation of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:33, 36; Acts 5:31; Ephesians 1:20; Acts 10:36

Faith in Jesus Christ

Justification, regeneration and the other blessings of this Gospel are received through faith in Jesus Christ, the all-sufficient Savior. Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 2:14, 16; John 3:16; Romans 3:22

The Foundational Truths of the Message of Salvation

1. The Bible is the Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:15-16; 2 Peter 1:19, 21; Acts 3:18; Acts 10:36,43; Romans 10:17
2. The true and living God is:
 - a. The creator of all things. Acts 17:22-24; Acts 14:15; John 1:3
 - b. Holy, without sin and just. 1 John 1:5; Acts 3:14; Acts 17:31; Romans 1:16-18
 - c. Love. Romans 5:8; John 3:16; Jeremiah 31:3
3. Man is:
 - a. Responsible to God as creator and judge. Romans 1:20; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16; Hebrews 9:27
 - b. A sinner by nature and by act. Romans 3:9, 10, 20, 23; Isaiah 53:6; Acts 2:23; Mathew 15:19
 - (1) Sin is Against God. 1 John 3:4; Acts 7:51-53; Romans 3:20; Psalm 51:4
 - (2) Sin must be punished. Acts 17:31; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Romans 6:23
 - c. Unable to save himself. Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Galatians 2:16; John 1:12, 13

The Appropriation of Salvation

1. God's invitation to come to Christ. Acts 16:31; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 11:28; John 6:37; 7:37; Revelation 22:17
2. Man's responsibility.
 - a. To recognize and agree with what God has said about man's sinful condition, thus to see himself as a lost sinner. Acts 2:37; 1 John 5:4, John 16:8-9; Romans 1:18; Luke 18:13
 - b. To trust (receive by faith alone) the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for sin. Acts 16:31; Romans 3:24-26, 28; John 3:36; John 1:12; Romans 5:1
 - c. To be willing, in obedience to the Holy Spirit's prompting, to turn from sin. Acts 3:19; Luke 24:47; Acts 17:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:9

Principles of Teaching the Message of Salvation

The message of salvation includes the Gospel, the foundational truths of the message of salvation and the truths concerning the appropriation of salvation.

1. Make it your goal and prayer that every unsaved child will trust the Lord Jesus as Savior.
2. Present the message of salvation (need of salvation, way of salvation, and the appropriation of salvation) as fully but as simply as possible each time you have the opportunity to evangelize a child or a group of children. While the Bible lesson is the best place to do this, if necessary you may use the whole program, to present this message.
3. Teach the truths of salvation found in the Scripture portion without forcing the interpretation to include truths which are not there.
4. Present these truths of salvation throughout the Bible lesson.
5. For a one-time children's meeting, choose a Bible lesson with a definite evangelistic thrust.
6. With a group of children who are taught on a regular basis, your teaching of salvation truths should be in more depth.
7. God's invitation to come to Christ is an essential part of the message of salvation. This invitation should be given at any time after the children have been shown that they need to be saved, what Jesus Christ has done to save them, and how they can appropriate this salvation.
8. Always tell lost children how to trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
9. Urge the child to receive Christ without delay, but do not put any pressure on him to do so. Avoid making it difficult for the child to receive Christ. Depend on the Holy Spirit who enables the child to respond to the invitation.
10. Give children the opportunity to come for personal help and counseling.



Since 1937

CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
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Reaching children worldwide™

Child Evangelism Fellowship
PO Box 348
Warrenton, MO 63383

(636) 456-4321

www.cefonline.com