

Counselor Handbook

Evangelism for Camp Counselors



INTRODUCTION

- 1) Read Deuteronomy 6:4-8 and Matthew 18:1-4. Impress on them as children.
- 2) Children can be taught the Word of God. Don't leave it until adulthood.
- 3) Children can believe the Word of God. They can trust in it and not be disappointed.
- 4) Children are not small adults. Ask them to learn the Word of God as children. Keep it simple. Don't ask them to imitate adults. In God's eyes we should act like "big" children. Children are the pattern for the citizens of heaven.

EVANGELISM WITH CHILDREN

- 1) Children are lost. They are not necessarily Christians. Salvation through infant baptism is irrelevant. The age of accountability comes at the first hint of moral consciousness.
- 2) We know we are sinners, because we do wrong things and know it.
 - a) How do we show kids this? The Bible shows them. For example, Romans 3:23.
- 3) Understanding of the reason Jesus Christ died on the cross.
 - a) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Becoming a Christian is a personal, individual thing.
- 4) Commitment
 - a) John 3:16. Believing that their sin was taken care of when Jesus died on the cross.
 - b) They understand this concretely and not subjectively.
 - c) Faith is a response to the truths that can be understood.
 - d) They don't need to know all the ins-and-outs of theology.
 - e) Give them the depths they need.

EVANGELISM FOR CHILDREN

- 1) We can't assume they know about Christ and their sin. We need to teach them.
- 2) Lead with groundwork. Start by getting them interesting in the Bible and what it says.
- 3) The Bible is the avenue by which people are saved. Being saved is a birth by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God using the seed of the word of God to change our lives. Ephesians 1:13 (a. Word of God, b. Spirit of God).
- 4) Introduce them to Jesus. Mark 10:13-14. Listen to God as he is speaking to the child.
- 5) Understand children. Children want our approval. They want us to approve of their decision for Christ. Determine the difference between true salvation and a false profession. They may give a false profession to make you stop seeking them out.

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THE “DO’S AND DON’TS” OF HOW TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST

- 1) Do be approachable. Do appropriate things to make yourself available to talk.
- 2) Do be observant. They lead with cues that they are interested in talking.
- 3) Don’t button-hole children. Don’t make them feel bad if they aren’t saved.
- 4) Do be prepared. Have an easy way to explain salvation to them.
 - a) John 3:16 – God’s Part; Your Part.
 - b) What do they want?
 - c) Why do they want it?
 - d) How do they get what they want?
- 5) Don’t deal with more than one camper at a time. No one is saved by saying “ME TOO!”
- 6) Do be definite. We have authority to teach what the Bible says.
 - a) Don’t assume anything.
 - b) Consider NEED, WAY, COST.
 - c) Decide based on that.
- 7) Don’t be over anxious. This decision is eternal don’t try to hurry it on.
- 8) Don’t put words into their mouths.
 - a) No “follow this prayer” stuff.
 - b) If they aren’t ready leave it.
 - c) The “Hound of Heaven” will not leave them alone.
- 9) Do be confident.
 - a) John 5:24. Using Scripture as your authority, remind them that the Bible says they are a Christian.
 - b) Tell a friend who will encourage them.
 - c) Don’t tell them to tell their parents right away. That may cause immediate friction and may prevent them from remaining interested.
- 10) Do follow-up work. Keep in touch with them over the year.

SOME VERSES THAT MAY HELP YOU

Assurance of Salvation	John 5:24, 20:31; 1 John 5:11-13.
Assurance of Answered Prayer	John 16:23-24.
Assurance of Victory	1 Corinthians 10:13.
Assurance of Forgiveness	1 John 1:9.
Assurance of Guidance	Proverbs 3:5-6.
All have sinned	Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23.
Sin’s Penalty	Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27.
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18.
Salvation not by Works	Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5.
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12; Romans 10:9-10.

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QUICK LIST OF VERSES

Campers can have a lot of questions and concerns. It is important that we are able to provide Scriptural answers for their questions. This helps to impress on them the idea that they can turn to God with their problems. Having a list of verses and knowing where they are in the Bible is helpful for these times. Use this sheet to help you find verses on various topics that you may end up discussing with your campers. Feel free to add any other appropriate verses!

Abortion

The Wonder of Life Psalm 127:3-5; Psalm 139:13-15.

Assurance

Eternal life promised John 5:24, 6:47-48, 11:25-26; Acts 2:21; Hebrews 13:5-6.

You can be sure: John 6:37-39; 1 John 5:11-13.

Anger

General verses Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:17, 15:1, 16:32, 19:11, 24:29, 25:21, 29:11; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Matthew 5:7, 5:44, 6:12-15; Luke 17:3-4; Romans 12:21; Ephesians 4:22-27,32; Colossians 3:8,13; James 1:19-20; 1 Peter 3:9.

Bad habits

General verses Exodus 23:2-3, 34:12; Numbers 16:26; Deuteronomy 12:30; 2 Kings 17:15; Psalm 119:11,115; Proverbs 1:10,15-16, 4:14-19, 23:17-21, 25:26, 29:25; Luke 9:23; Romans 6:11-14, 8:37, 12:1; Ephesians 5:3-8; Philippians 2:13-15, 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23; James 4:7-8.

Child Abuse

General verses Psalm 23:4, 31:7, 55:22, 56:8-10, 119:50,52,54, 138:3; Matthew 11:28, 19:14; John 14:16-18, 26; 1 Peter 5:7; Jude 20.

Comfort

Jesus, the Good Shepherd Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 23:1, 37:3-5, 66:8-9, 69:30-32, 103:17; Proverbs 4:18; Isaiah 43:2,51:3, 12; Jeremiah 29:11; Zechariah 4:6; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.

He will never forsake you Hebrews 13:5-6.

Cults

False Teachers 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Jude 17-19.

How to discern error Mark 13:21-23; 2 Timothy 3:14; 1 John 4:1-3.

How to resist error Mark 14:38; Philippians 1:9-11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Jude 20-23.

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Dating

Dating non-Christians
Person to date

1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11, 6:14-18.

Psalm 101:4,7; Proverbs 22:24, 31:10,26; Romans 15:5-6; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:12-14, 4:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 3:4; 2 Peter 1:6-7, 3:10-11.

How to treat my date

Matthew 5:8; Romans 12:10, 13:13; 2 Corinthians 13:7; Ephesians 4:17-23; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Timothy 5:2; 1 Peter 2:12.

Physical boundaries

Proverbs 4:23-27, 6:27-29; Matthew 5: 27-28; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:13-20, 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Timothy 4:12, 5:2; 1 John 3:3.

Depression

General verses

Psalm 38:21-22; Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 4:7-9; Galatians 2:20.

Discouragement

Don't give up

Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 31:8; Psalm 16:8-9, 28:7, 33:20-22, 62:8; Luke 1:45; Galatians 6:9-10; 2 Timothy 1:12.

God will help and strengthen

Genesis 28:15; Psalm 37:4, 84:11; Isaiah 41:10-13; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

Emptiness

Christ can satisfy

Psalm 107:1-9.

He will fulfill your desires

Psalm 37-1-7.

Frustration

General verses

Zechariah 4:6 John 14: 27; Hebrews 4:9-12,16; Psalm 27:13-14, 32:6-11,73:26-28; Proverbs 4:18, 16:3; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 14:19; Colossians 3:15; John 8:31-32

Forgiveness

General verses

Psalm 32:5; ; Matthew 6:9-15; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:35-37, 17:3-4; Romans 12 :14,17,19,21; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 4:26-27,32, 5:1-2; Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 12:14-15; 1 Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:9.

Friendship

General verses

Psalm 37:4, 139:7,10; Proverbs 13:20, 17:17, 18:24; Philippians 2:3-4.

Future

General verses

Deuteronomy 31:8; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 37:23; Isaiah 26:19; Jeremiah 29:11; John 14:2-3; Romans 6:5,8:28; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Hebrews 10:37; 2 Peter 3:3-14; 1 John 3:2-3; Revelation 1:7.

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Grief

Loss of a loved one Isaiah 57:1-2, 61:1-3; Jeremiah 31:3; Matthew 5:4.

Guilt

No condemnation Romans 8:1; 1 John 1:9.
No sin too great Isaiah 1:18.

Home

Conflict with parents
and/or authority Proverbs 1:8-9, 3:1, 4:11-12,20-23, 15:5,31-32; Matthew 5:9-10;
Romans 13:1-2; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-24.

Homosexuality

Homosexuality as a sin Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-28; 1 Timothy 1:9-11.
Homosexuality will be
judged by God Genesis 18 and 19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21.
The power to deliver Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17.
A renewed mind Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24.

Loneliness

His presence promised Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 9:10, 23:4, 37:25,28; Romans
8:31,35,37-39; Hebrews 13:5-6.
Joy in his Presence Psalm 16:1-11

Self-Worth

Wonderfully made Psalm 139
Inner beauty 1 Peter 2:5,9, 3:4
General references Genesis 1:27; 1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:17, 12:1-5;
1 Corinthians 3:18, 12:20-25; 2 Corinthians 3:5, 5:17, 21;
Ephesians 1:4-6,5:8; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 John
3:1,4:4.

Sex

Designed for Marriage Genesis 2:24; See references for "Dating" and "Homosexuality"
above.

Suffering

Suffering has profits Psalm 34:18; Matthews 5:10-12, 19:29; Acts 5:41; Hebrews 11:25,
12:6-11; 1 Peter 2:20, 5:10.
It deepens the Faith Romans 8:26-27; 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 John 4:17-18.
It is to be expected Psalm 34:192 Timothy 3:10-14; 1 Peter 2:19-23; 1 John 3:13.
God's Grace is Sufficient: Isaiah 48:17; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 3:13; 1
John 4:4-6.

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Temptation

How to avoid them Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 21:33-36; Romans 12:21; Ephesians 4:27; Hebrews 2:18, 12:3-4; 1 Peter 3:17; 1 John 4:4.

What causes failure James 1:12-17.

General references Matthew 24:42-44; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Hebrews 4:14-16; James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12; 2 Peter 2:9-21.

Victory

Is in Christ Isaiah 14:11-16; Acts 10:38; Romans 5:17-21; Ephesians 1:19-23; Philippians: 2:8-11, 4:13; Colossians 1:17-19, 2:15; Hebrews 3:4; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 1:18, 20:10.

Your inner resource Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7, 11:22-24; Luke 10:19-20; Acts 3:6; Romans 8:37, 10:10; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 2:4-6, 6:16; Colossians 1:26-27, 2:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Hebrews 4:12; 1 John 4:4; Revelation 12:11.

Seek God's help Jeremiah 23:29; John 14:12-14, 16:23-24; Romans 1:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Timothy 6:12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-10.

Worry

God will provide Ephesians 1:17-20; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 1:9; James 3:15-18.

Have Faith in Him Psalm 27:13-14, 32:8, 119:130; Isaiah 30:21; Romans 4:20-21.

Claim His promises Psalm 27:11; Proverbs 1:23, 2:6-7; James 1:6; 1 John 2:20, 27; 5:14-15.

It is relieved by prayer Psalm 5:8, 43:3; Philippians 4:6-7.

God cares for you Psalm 23:2-3, 111:7; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Peter 5:7.

General references Psalm 34:4, 42:5; 73:24, 93:5, 139:9-10, 24; Isaiah 42:16, 58:11.

Will of God

How to find it Joshua 1:8; Psalm 32:8, 55:22, 90:12, 138:8; Proverbs 2:6, 3:4-6, 6:22-23, 15:22, 16:3, 20:5, 23:12; Isaiah 30:21, 42:16; John 16:13; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 4:16; James 1:5-8; 1 Peter 5:17.

General references Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 5:14-16, 6:8, 26, 24:14, 28:20; Mark 9:23, 16:15; Luke 14:28-30; John 13:35; 14:27; 1 Corinthians 1:17-29, 2:1-5, 14, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 9:8, 20; Ephesians 1:16-18; Philippians 2:15; Colossians 1:26-29; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:9.

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Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?

Every boy and girl comes to camp with questions. Given the right opportunities, they will ask them, and expect an answer. Sometime a simple answer will be sufficient; other times more detail will be required. Here is a list of questions that may be asked of you. Take a few minutes and think about how you would answer. Remember, the Camp Director, Speaker and other Counselors are available to help you give an answer – you are not alone.

Questions about God:

- 1) How do we know God exists?
- 2) What if God never speaks to me? How do I know he is near if I can't see Him or feel Him near me?
- 3) How does God speak to people? How can we know God's will? What if it is something I don't want to do?

Questions about the bible;

- 1) How do we know the bible is right?
- 2) Who wrote the Bible? How do we know? How do we know they wrote what God wanted? How did they know what to write?
- 3) Why is my bible different to the Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon editions?
- 4) Where should I start reading the Bible?
- 5) What if I don't understand the bible? Or parts of it?
- 6) What are good verses to learn?

Questions about sin and salvation:

- 1) What does it mean to be saved?
- 2) How can I be sure that I'm saved?
- 3) If my parents go to church, are they saved? Am I saved if I go to church?
- 4) Am I saved if I'm baptized as a baby?

General Questions

- 1) Why are innocent people allowed to suffer?
- 2) Why did God let something happen to me?
- 3) Do you have to be good to be saved?
- 4) What does baptism mean?
- 5) I always pray. But what am I doing wrong, because God doesn't seem to answer them?
- 6) Why is my Bible different to the Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon editions
- 7) Why pray in Jesus name? Why do we attach His name to prayers?
- 8) What does "Amen" mean?
- 9) Why do we pray to God the Father? And not Jesus?