

Crusade Collection:

Counseling Procedure for Children, Who have responded to the invitation?

The following is a counseling procedure for a Counselor to deal with a child who has responded to an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. A presentation of the Gospel has already been presented and this child is making a public decision. You are now in the designated counseling room with the child and there are nine steps we want you to cover:

1. Introduce Yourself.

Use your first name and find out the name of the child. Refer to Barney's message, indicating that the child heard Barney say that those who came forward would be coming forward to be sure that they know the Lord Jesus, or if they never have invited Jesus into their life, that they will find that out. Then ask the child, "What would you like to ask Jesus to do for you?" They will say, one of two things- either they will say "to be sure" they have Jesus in their life, or they will say that they "want to ask Jesus into their life" Sometimes, its good to ask if the have done this before? You might clarify that question and their answer and continue.

2. Explain to the Child Revelation 3:20.

Open a large print Bible, if possible, and read it out loud with the child, in its entirety. Then go back to the beginning of the verse and begin to explain.

- a. Knock—by knocking on a chair with your hand, so you are like knocking on a door and then ask the question, "What am I doing?" The children readily say, "knocking." Then you say, "If I came to your house and knocked on the door of your house, what would have to happen so I could come in?"

At that point, the child will respond, "Open the door," and then you might say something like, "I could huff and puff and knock your door down, but that wouldn't be too nice and your parents would probably be mad at me if I did that, right?" Then say, "Jesus comes to the door of your life and wants to come in. He doesn't force His way in. He waits for us to open the door. So, if we open the door or our life, He will come in. He says that we must "open the door" ourselves (referring back to the verse). He says, "If any man hear my voice and opens the door, I will come into him."

- b. Then you ask, "Do you think that Jesus is a liar?" Most children will say, "No!" "If Jesus says that He will come into your life, do you really think that He will do it?" Look at the verse again, read it from the beginning and when you come to the part where it says, "I will come in," emphasize that Jesus keeps His promise. He says, "If you open the door, I will come in."
- c. All you need to do is to ask Jesus to come into your life. If you have never done that before, then let's ask Him to do that.

3. Pray with the Child.

“Let’s ask Jesus right now! You can pray out loud, after me, as I pray. Make my prayer your prayer.” (I then give a suggested prayer, along this line...)

“Dear Jesus, I know that I have done many things wrong. I am really sorry for these things that I have done. I learned today that you died on the cross for all my sins. You have been knocking on the door of my life. I want to let you come in. Right now, I open the door of my life and invite you in.

I thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life right now. Thank you for forgiving me. Help me to learn more about you. Help me to live for you. Help me to go to Sunday school and Church. Thank you, for helping me to know that you now live in my life. Thank you that I can be in your forever family. Thank you, for answering my prayer today, in Jesus’ name, amen.”

4. Ask Them This Response Question.

Ask the child, *“Where did you ask Jesus to come?”* They will likely say, “Into my life” or “Into my heart.” Your response to that is, “That’s great! I am really happy for you! This is the most wonderful thing you’ve ever done!” Let me show you something...

5. Display Hand for Assurance.

Hold your hand out with five fingers extended and say, *“I will never leave you,”* pointing to each finger for each of the five words. Then repeat this, *“I will never leave you”* again and add, Jesus said, *“I will never leave you.”* Use a few examples of what might happen to them and then ask, “Would Jesus leave you, if that happened?”

Then, you would say, “No,” because He said, *“I will never leave you.”* Each time you do this, emphasize a different word, “He will never leave you,” (a promise). “He will never leave you,” (it’s impossible). “He will never leave you” (that’s forever). He will always stay with you, even though you do something terrible. I have something else to show you.

6. Use the Born Again Birthday Book.

Present the book to each child. Read the first pages out loud to them until you get to the birth certificate page and at that point, you fill the birth certificate page in with the child, as best you can, and sign the birth certificate yourself, as the counselor, so they will have your name in the book. Explain to the children that this book is for them to keep. Then, talk about the birthday party—there are a couple more pages to read—and it leads into the six gifts that one receives at his birthday party when he invited Jesus to come into their life.

Summarize the six gifts by name only, without reading the pages at this time. Show them the parent page and encourage them to go over that page with their Mom and Dad. Then call their attention to the memory verse pages, at the very end of the book, encouraging them to read the

sections of Scripture and begin to memorize those verses, which will help them to grow in the decision that they have just made.

7. Encourage the Child to Tell Someone Else.

You might say, *“Can you think of somebody you can tell about what you just asked Jesus to do for you?”* They will suggest a number of persons, perhaps their Mom or Dad, brother or sister, etc., or it might be the person that brought them that day. Then, you say, *“These are good persons to tell and we need to do that, but I have a friend I want you to meet.”* Then introduce the child to the Lead Counselor, or even later to Barney Kinard, the Evangelist that day, and have the child be introduced to them. (Do not give the child’s testimony; let the child respond to that)

8. Lead Counselor’s Encouraging Response.

Take the child to these persons. The Lead Counselor’s response will probably be one of two things, or maybe both: *“Did you ask Jesus to do something for you today?”* They will probably say, “Yes.” Then you will say, *“Where did you ask Jesus to come?”* This will lead to a response that they asked Jesus to come into their life, at which time the Lead Counselor will respond very positively and enthusiastically with a smile on your face. This response may be the only positive re-enforcement the child will receive, so it is very important.

9. Record Decision on the Registration Form.

The counselor will then try to find the child’s Registration Form, because the Registrar will be nearby. First, record the child's decision and the child's decision on the form. Second, sign your name clearly on the form, so that if there are any questions, we will know whom to contact later. Escort the child to the main meeting area and/or the designated area for parents to pick up. If there is time try to introduce the child to Barney, so he can ask—*“Where do you ask Jesus to come?”* (If the child has Treasure Barrel tickets, Barney will take care of this then.)

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