

Crusade Collection:

Evangelistic Invitation Procedure

By Rev. Barney Kinard

This invitation procedure has proven very effective, especially for larger audiences. It eliminates the most common problems in giving an invitation to large groups of children. (But it could be used in a small group very effectively)

For Beginning:

1. Children are instructed to bow their heads and fold their hands.
2. Everyone is asked to close their eyes except teachers who are the speaker's "helpers."

Speaker says:

"As your eyes are closed and your heads are bowed, listen to what I say—I want to ask you two questions before we pray. Have you invited Jesus to come into your life? Do you remember when you invited Jesus to come into your life (suggesting places where it might have been done like: Vacation Bible School, Camp, Sunday school, Church, Good News Club, Mom and Dad)?"

For Response:

1. Children who remember inviting Jesus into their life are asked to raise their hands.

Speaker says:

"Some of you could not raise your hand with the others. That means one of two things: (1) Either you've never invited Jesus into your life, or (2) You may not be sure you have invited Jesus into your life. If you'd like to be sure today, I want to pray for you before I go. If you really "mean business" and want Jesus to come into your life, I'm going to ask you to raise your hands. Go ahead, raise your hand right now. Thank you for raising your hand. You may put your hand down. Keep your eyes closed while I pray for you."

2. Speaker prays for both groups in his prayer. (He prays as he said above.)
3. While children remain with eyes closed, speaker says the following before closing the prayer:

"As your heads are bowed and your eyes are closed. Some of you asked me to pray for you, and I did because I meant business. Now, if you really meant business and you really want Jesus to come into your life so you can be sure. I'm going to ask you to stand up and stay standing if you really 'mean business.' The rest of you keep your eyes closed. That's right, go ahead—stand up! Just those who raised their hands for prayer should stand."

For Commitment:

1. Speaker addresses those who are standing:

“ I’m going to ask the boys and girls who are standing to do one more thing; come to the front where I am. We want to help you to be sure you have Jesus in your life today—just those who raised their hand and are standing should come right now. Jesus wants to answer our prayer.”

2. Speaker asks counselors and/or parents to join children standing in front. He tells the audience to open their eyes.

3. Speaker explains to the audience what will happen next:

“ Counselors and parents will accompany these children to a designated room for about five minutes. We will show the children a Bible verse and lead them in prayer. In addition we will record their names and addresses. If you brought any of these boys and girls who have come forward, please wait for them to return here.”

“As they go, let’s pray for them and thank God they really “meant-business” today.”

Prepared by Rev. Barney Kinard

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