

Counseling a Spiritual Need
At the End of the Released Time Session
With No Time to Counsel

- A. The teacher closes the lesson in prayer.
- B. The teacher says, "Beginning a relationship with Jesus is very important. I'm sorry we do not have time to talk about it today. If you would like to make a decision to follow Jesus, **come tell me next week.**"
- C. Teacher gives **A-B-C-D Salvation Steps** to each child who expresses interest.
- D. During the next session a designated counselor should counsel the child.

Counseling a Spiritual Need
When No Counselors Are Available & Teacher Counsels

- A. The teacher takes the children aside and gives the children the **A-B-C-D Salvation Steps** card.
- B. The teacher reads through the card, then **questions children** to find out their level of understanding and reason for coming.
- C. The teacher gives each child a **3x5 card**, and asks each child to write his/her name on card, and then
 - 1. write an **S**, if he wants to begin a relationship with Jesus;
 - 2. write an **A**, if he wants to be sure he has a relationship with Jesus;
 - 3. write a **Q**, if he has other questions.
- D. The teacher **talks quietly to the S group** and dismisses them, **then to the A group** and dismisses them, etc.
- E. The teacher seeks a **follow-up time next session** with each child.

LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

Basic Understandings:

- 1. Children are capable of making an intelligent decision—showing sorrow for sin, choosing to believe in Jesus as Savior and receiving new life as God's child.
- 2. We must commit to praying regularly for the children and their salvation.
- 3. The Holy Spirit speaks and brings the child to a decision. We must depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us when talking with any child about spiritual matters.
- 4. In talking with children, we must use simple words, and be warm, friendly and relaxed.
- 5. We want a child to understand the steps to salvation clearly and then respond.
- 6. The child should not be imitating another's decision or responding to pressure (scare tactics) from a teacher, listener, or anyone else.
- 7. We must not focus on the number of children who make decisions; we focus on each child who comes.

A. Invitation

- 1. Preferred wording: **"Would you like to begin a relationship with Jesus?"**
- 2. Not preferred:
 - a. "Do you want to ask Jesus into your heart?" (not clear to a child)
 - b. "Do you want to go to heaven?" (some children believe all people want to go; others do not want to leave their parents).

B. Instruction

- 1. Children should be told to **talk to a counselor in a designated place** after the lesson time.
 - a. When the child follows through, it shows the Holy Spirit is working and the child is serious.
 - b. We discourage having children
 - 1) raise their hands,
 - 2) look at the teacher,
 - 3) come forward to stand beside the teacher.
 - c. We do not want to cause embarrassment or have children imitate each other.
- 2. **When counseling**, there should **never** be one adult alone in a room with just one child.

Counseling for a Spiritual Need: Salvation

A. Approach

1. The counselor is warm and friendly.
2. The counselor uses simple, understandable words.
3. The counselor asks the child, “**Why did you come?**” **OR** “**Why are you here?**” and the child says **he wants to begin a relationship with Jesus.**

B. Addressing SALVATION Need:

1. Give the child the **A-B-C-D Salvation Steps** card and review it with him.
 - a. Child must understand that he is a sinner (Rom 3:10, 23). Sin is choosing to disobey God. Encourage the child to try to name some specific sins he has done. The listener could share that he too is a sinner.
 - b. The child must understand that God loves him (*John 3:16, Romans 5:8*) and has provided the only way for him to have his sins forgiven and be assured of heaven some day.
 - c. The child must express belief that Jesus is the only way to get to God, that Jesus died to take the punishment for his sins.
2. **Ask questions** about the salvation steps to be sure of his understanding.
3. **Be sure** the child
 - a. shows sorrow for his sins,
 - b. expresses belief that Jesus loves him and died for him,
 - c. asks Jesus to come into his life and be his Savior,
4. Encourage the child to pray and thank God for making him His Child.
 - a. **Please note:** the actual prayer does not save the child. A sincere belief alone in Jesus to save him is all that is necessary.
 - b. The counselor is there to guide him toward believing in and beginning a relationship with Jesus, and to help him pray a simple prayer of thanks afterward.
5. Ask the child to **sign the other side of the A-B-C-D card** and place in his Bible or RT packet.
6. Make sure the child takes a **salvation packet** with him.
7. Pray with the child again before parting, **asking God to go with the child** and help him live for Jesus.

Counseling for a Spiritual Need: Assurance

A. Approach

1. The counselor is warm and friendly.
2. The counselor uses simple, understandable words.
3. The counselor asks the child, “**Why did you come?**” **OR** “**Why are you here?**” and the child says **he wants to be sure of his relationship with Jesus.**

B. Addressing ASSURANCE Need:

1. Give him the **A-B-C-D Salvation Steps** card and review it with him.
2. **Ask questions** about the **Salvation Steps** to be sure of the child’s understanding.
3. Ask the child, “Do you **remember a time** when you told Jesus about your sins and asked Him to forgive you and be your Savior?” **(If child says No, proceed with the A-B-C-D Salvation steps.)**
4. (If child says Yes) “**God remembers** that time too, and He does not take away (or take back) His gift of salvation just because we are worried, or we sin or disappoint Him.” (*Romans 10:13, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”; John 10:28, “I give them eternal life, ...no one can snatch them out of my hand.”*)
5. But when we do things that disappoint God, He does want us to **ask His forgiveness**, just as we ask a friend to forgive us when we hurt that friend. We may need to do that every day, and that’s OK.” *I John 1:9 says: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us...”*.
6. “Let’s **thank God** that you are His child now and ask Him to help you remember that.”
7. Be sure the child has **no other questions** that disturb him about this issue.
8. Print out **Romans 10:13 and John 10:28** for child to take with him.
9. Pray with the child before parting, **asking God to remind him that he is God’s child.**