

PROCEDURES FOR FOLLOW-UP ON CHILDREN

I. The Mandate of Follow-up (Matt. 28:19, 20)

A. Christ's commission to us in Matthew 28 gives a three-fold responsibility. This commission was Christ's direct command to us, not an option.

1. "Go Teach" - This means to go make disciples. In other words, evangelize and lead them to Christ.
2. "Baptizing them"- The second step is to be baptized, publicly identifying with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
3. "Teaching them" - The third step is to train and teach them God's Word so they may grow.

B. Acts 2:41-42 gives us the biblical order of the Christian life.

1. Received Jesus as Savior
2. Were baptized
3. Added to the church
 - a) To be grounded in doctrine
 - b) To have Christian fellowship
 - c) To participate in the local church for growth and service.

II. The Method of Follow-up

A. The four-fold purpose of follow-up

1. Renew contact - It is important to go by and visit to renew that decision in their minds by seeing you again.
2. Re-enforce their decisions - You want to review the decisions they made and make sure they understood them.
3. Reassure their faith - Many times, between the time they accept Christ and the time of your next contact, the devil has already planted doubts. You need to give them Scripture to assure them of their salvation.
4. Re-establish steps of growth - You want to cover assurance of salvation, baptism, Bible reading and study, prayer, witnessing, and church attendance. The basics and progressive steps of the Christian life are essential to growth.

B. How to do a baptism follow-up call on children

1. Setting up the call
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- a) It may be possible to contact the parents and arrange a time when you can come.
- b) How you speak to the parents is very important. When you call, introduce yourself by giving your name, church, and your relationship with their child.

Example: "Hello, Mr. Davit, my name is Bill Smith and I am Johnny's Sunday school teacher at Lancaster Baptist Church. The reason I am calling is that I have some exciting news about Johnny and wanted to stop by and share with you a wonderful decision he made in class recently."

- 2. When you arrive at the home, whether or not you have set up an appointment, follow these guidelines.
 - a) Introduce yourself at the door
 - b) Ask about them and their family, be folksy for a few minutes
 - c) Get to the point of the visit:
 - (1) State or restate why you came.

Example: "As you know, we said we had something to share with you regarding a decision your child made recently."
 - (2) Explain how you taught (or the student heard) a lesson from the Bible. You then explained how they could be sure they were on their way to Heaven. Explain that their child accepted Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection as the payment for sin.
 - (3) Using Acts 2:41-42 (people are less likely to argue against Scripture), explain the pattern God gave us in the verses - salvation, baptism, church membership.
 - (4) Then explain baptism using the baptism tract, emphasizing that it is a public identification with Christ, and a step of obedience to His command. Explain that it does not wash away sins or help one get to Heaven.
 - (5) Reassure the parents we will not baptize anyone unless they understand what baptism is.
 - (6) As you explain this to the parents and child, be sure the child also understands:
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- (a) Use hand motions to show going under and coming back up
 - (b) Use the wedding ring as an object lesson to explain the purpose of baptism.
- (7) Explain the procedure on the day of his baptism
 - (a) Come down front to Pastor at the invitation
 - (b) A personal worker or you will accompany him to the changing rooms
 - (c) We provide special gowns and towels for him
 - (d) Parents are encouraged to come and watch
 - (e) Mention we video tape the baptisms and they can also take photographs
- (8) If the child understands and the parents agree, have them sign the permission slip and turn it in with the decision card for filing.
- (9) Be sure to thank the parents for their time.

C. Negative responses

1. If parents are negative, do not give up. Try again in a month or two. In the meantime, encourage the child to grow in his Christian faith.
 2. If the child does not understand then continue to work with him.
 3. In the classroom, baptism should be taught once a month, separate from your normal lesson.
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