



Children Can Witness

by Dick Gruber

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Picture a birthday party. You know the kind. Ten or twelve fifth- and sixth-grade girls are giggling and playing in a basement family room. Some are watching a new video, while on the other end of the room, something eternal is taking place. Carissa and her cousin Suzy are witnessing to a friend. They answer her questions using Scriptures and concepts learned in Missionettes and Junior Bible Quiz. Before this birthday party is over, Carissa and Suzy have prayed with their girlfriend, assuring her of a place in eternity and helping her establish her own re-birthday.

John receives several "Who Cares" videos from his children's pastor on an October Sunday. He shares these with five boys for whom he has prayed since school began. Three of the boys watch the videos and give their lives to Christ.

Tim invites three of his school friends to a banquet honoring children. The church decorates for children. The kids order kid food and are waited on by crazy costumed adults and youth workers. At the conclusion of the banquet, a short evangelistic message is preached, and one of Tim's friends gives his life to Jesus.

Children Lead Children to Christ

Real-life scenes like these are being played out across our country. Children are sharing their faith with other children and even with adults. A recent Barna survey states that children have a 32 percent likelihood of coming to Christ, where youth only have a 4 percent, and adults a 6 percent likelihood to do the same.

With a majority



of conversions occurring before people reach the age of 14, is it any wonder that children can easily lead other children to Jesus?

As a children's pastor and leader these last 28 years, I have participated in countless evangelistic events during which thousands of children have made first-time commitments to Christ. I have always been impressed with boys and girls

when trusting them to invite friends to crusades, Bible schools, or other outreach events.

I have been equally impressed with the ability of children at any age to personally lead their friends to Christ.

Young Fishermen

Ten-year-old Dafne came to me on a Sunday morning and said, "Hey, Pastor, I got one." "One what?" I questioned. "One friend. I won one friend to Jesus. You see, I invited my friend to spend the night at my house. I played Christian music and Christian videos and by the time we had breakfast, she was ready. My mom and I prayed with her to accept Jesus."

"I am so blessed," I responded. "I'm so proud of you." To this she smiled and stated matter-of-factly, "I'm going to get another one!" Dafne did get another one. In truth, she won four more friends to Jesus in the following six months.

Let me encourage you to do all you can to encourage the children you serve to witness to their friends. Train them, pray for them, and provide whatever materials they need to become all that they can be in this time of harvest.

Questions for Further Study—

1. Why do you think children are more likely to come to Christ than teens or adults?
2. List some ways you can encourage children to lead other children to Christ.
3. Brainstorm with the children you serve. Have them list ways they can reach their friends for Christ. Write some of those ways here.

This article is reprinted from the Summer 2003 issue of *Fanning the Flame*, a quarterly newsletter for children's workers produced by the National Children's Ministries Agency. *Fanning the Flame* is mailed free to children's pastors and directors in the local church. For additional copies and back issues contact GPH at 1-800-641-4310.

