

LOCAL IMPACT



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

THE ONLY SOLUTION

I ran into a former coworker while in town on Monday evening, and after the usual catching up about work and family, the conversation turned to the tragic events of that morning. Neither of us could even begin to understand what would motivate anyone to open fire on an elementary school. Why would anyone want to do such a terrible thing? What depths must a person sink to in order to commit such a horrible act?

In the aftermath, there will be plenty of political wrangling and arm-chair quarterbacking. While we can (and should) work to better protect children as they go about their school day, the ultimate solution has nothing to do with laws or school resource officers or policies & procedures. The only solution is JESUS.

Only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can change lives. We have entire generations who have heard and believed the lie from Satan that truth is relative. Your truth is your truth. My truth is my truth. People, adults and children alike, have been left with no solid footing on which to stand and are tossed by every whim, every feeling, every message of the culture around them.

How do we change this culture? The same way the early Christians did in Rome - by sharing the Gospel with the people around them. The early church leaders focused on preaching Jesus, or, as Paul says, "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). Lives are changed only when there is an encounter with Christ. A culture is changed when lives are changed.

That's why the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship® (CEF) is of vital importance in today's world and especially now. CEF is on the front lines, partnering with the local church to take the Gospel through the doors of local public elementary schools, into community centers and daycares and apartment complexes, wherever the children gather. If we want real, lasting change in our culture, **the only solution is JESUS.**

Recent Lifeway statistics¹ tell us that only 27% of Americans attend church regularly (at least one or two times per month). This means we cannot sit back and wait for children to come to our church building to learn about Jesus...because 73% of them aren't coming. We must take Jesus to them where they are! Children are desperate to hear that they have value, that God loves them, that they can be forgiven for their sins. They are dependent upon us, you and me, the body of believers, to tell them the good news of Jesus Christ. **We must tell them about Jesus!**

Right now, there are 101 elementary schools in our chapter, with more being built every year, and 119,000 children, ages 5-14. We want every single one of them to learn about the love of Jesus, the One who can change their lives forever. We can work together with you and your church to reach the children. We need you. The children need you.

Will you join us in this spiritual battle for the lives of the children? Will you commit to taking the Gospel to the children? **Will you give them Jesus?**

-JE



Children at Chapel Hill Elementary Good News Club receiving counseling from volunteer Teresa King after responding to the invitation



Children at a local community center receiving counseling from Sydney Klepper at a summer 5-Day Club

CONTACT US:



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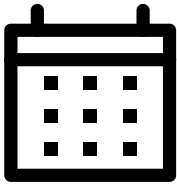


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¹ Earls, Aaron. 5 Current Church Attendance Trends You Need to Know, Lifeway Research. Accessed 10/19/22. <https://research.lifeway.com/2022/02/02/5-current-church-attendance-trends-you-need-to-know>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 22 - CYIA Pretraining 1
- May 6 - CYIA Pretraining 2
- May 8-12 - CEF National Conference, Ridgecrest
- May 13 - BBQ Festival Face Painting, Murfreesboro
- May 28-June 2 - CYIA Training Camp, Decherd
- July 29 - Good News! Training Conference, Mt. Juliet
- August 17-26 - TN State/Wilson County Fair Face Painting



Teach Kids! is a short, powerful "HOW TO" for parents and children's ministry workers. Practical topics equip you with aspects of Gospel parenting, evangelism, and discipleship to help you teach the kids in your life, whether they are your own or those you minister to.

Find it on major podcast platforms by searching for "Teach Kids."



Since 1937

CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Reaching children worldwide

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

Ridgecrest Conference Center
Black Mountain, NC
May 8-12, 2023



*"We who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul."
Hebrews 6:18b-19a*

With much anticipation, **Child Evangelism Fellowship®** invites **YOU** to join **us for National Conference 2023**. There will be time spent together studying God's Word and worshipping through music during the main sessions. Guest speakers include Dr. Erwin Lutzer and Dr. Crawford Loritts.

You may be thinking, "I'm not CEF staff. Is this really for me?" **YES! This is for you!** There will be a variety of small group workshops offered during the conference, geared toward staff, volunteers, and boards/committees. It's a great opportunity to learn new ideas from other CEF chapters and volunteers as well as to encourage one another.

The National Conference will include ample time to fellowship with other believers, pray to our God together, and visit exhibitors and vendors. No only will you be uplifted during the conference, you can bring the experience back to our local mission field right here in Middle TN! See you there!

For more info, visit cefonline.com/natcon

WE'RE GOING TO THE FAIR!

If you want to reach children with the Gospel, you have to go where the children are. Where will the children be on August 17-26? They'll be at the 2023 combined Wilson County/TN State Fair! We are blessed to again be approved to set up a Gospel Face Painting Tent this year. What a wonderful opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with children and their families! Every year, approximately 1600 face-to-face Gospel presentations are made at the fair, and every year, 50+ children put their trust in Jesus during these ten days.

This year, we want to reach 2100 children through the Gospel Face Painting Tent. To reach this God-sized goal, we need you! First, will you pray for the children who will hear the Gospel at the fair, maybe for the first time. Second, will you consider how you can serve during the dates of the fair (August 17-26)? Face painters, greeters, and shift leaders are needed on every day of the fair. You don't have to be an artist! Finally, will you recruit others from your family, community, and church to join with you in reaching children with the good news of Jesus Christ? We are happy to provide training for your church group, or join us at the *Good News! Training Conference* on July 29 to learn how to share the Gospel through face painting.

Email JoyE@CEFMiddleTennessee.org for more info!



Christian Youth In Action (CYIA) 2022, from the ten CEF chapters across the state of Tennessee


A SUMMER OF SIGNIFICANCE

BY SYDNEY KLEPPER

Being a part of Christian Youth In Action (CYIA) the past two years taught me so much! I am so grateful for all that I learned and experienced at camp and during 5-Day Clubs. At first I was hesitant about doing CYIA because I knew it would push me out of my comfort zone, but I felt God was calling me to step out and trust Him to be my strength. I am so thankful for CYIA as **I now have the tools to feel confident in sharing my faith.** In addition, while preparing to teach the lessons for the 5-Day Clubs, I gained a deeper understanding of the Gospel myself. I learned about leadership, teamwork, and engaging with kids during my time with CYIA. God also graciously provided me with several new friends at CYIA camp who encouraged and helped me as I was stepping out of my comfort zone to reach kids with the Gospel.

Although putting on 5-day clubs takes a lot of time, practice, effort, and teamwork, being plugged into God's mission and knowing that you are planting seeds of truth in the lives of children is worth everything. Watching kids respond to the Gospel and decide to follow Jesus is precious, humbling, and inspiring. The 5-Day Clubs showed me the importance of knowing and sharing Christ with others because **He has the power to transform lives.**

Lastly, I appreciate the staff and leaders of CYIA as they were constantly pointing us to Christ. They prayed for us and the kids we were ministering to and always led with Biblical truth. I cannot express how thankful I am for CYIA and the staff's dedication to giving youth a concrete, effective way to reach kids with the Gospel of Christ.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

We are already preparing for Christian Youth In Action (CYIA) training camp and the summer ministry season.

Every year, a team of youth, ages 12-19, goes out into the local area and leads 5-Day Clubs, a fun-filled Bible club for kids ages 5-12.

If you know a young person who loves the Lord and is interested in serving as a summer missionary right here in the Middle Tennessee chapter, call Joy today!
615.334.8763



Southside Elementary (Lebanon) Good News Club volunteer introducing lesson



CEF of Middle TN presents

Good News!

Training Conference

July 29, 2023
9:00-3:30
First Baptist, Mt. Juliet

Registration details coming soon!



Save the date! The first annual Good News! Training Conference is scheduled for July 29. Sessions include classes for new Good News Club volunteers, returning volunteers, team leaders, as well as sessions that anyone who works in children's ministry can put to use. More details coming soon!



Review game time at Lebanon First Baptist community Good News Club



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE WITH YOUR CHILD

Five Tips to Hold Their Interest

by Lydia Kaiser

Children love to hear stories. From bedtime, to bath time, to everything in between, stories entertain and spark imagination. For parents who want to teach kids biblical truths, Bible story books are a great way to keep your child engaged. But it can be hard to talk about what we can learn from the storyline when the child's interest wanes by the end of it.

Want to help your child enjoy reading the Bible and recognize how God's Word can apply to their life in an impactful way, without a forceful study lesson? Here are five tips on how to read the Bible with your child, keep them engaged, and teach them important biblical principles, without resorting to preaching at the end of the story.

1. Listen to the Holy Spirit. First, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you as you share Bible story time with your child. The standard, most obvious lesson to be learned from a story may not be the one your child needs to hear at this time, so listen for whispers from the Holy Spirit or if He brings anything to mind. Often during story time we forget to pray for it to be impactful, as we just want to tuck the child into bed or move on to the next thing. *But no amount of planning how to read the Bible with your child is a substitute for listening to the Holy Spirit!*

2. Make the Bible Story Relevant to Your Child. Second, keep in mind what your child is currently facing in life and how God can speak to them directly about it. Is there anything God is impressing on your child's heart before, during, or after the story? Ask them questions frequently as you read Bible stories with your child and highlight any elements that might be relevant to their current thoughts or struggles. Invite them to be open to hearing what God has to say, and continue to discuss things with your child throughout the story. *When your child sees God work in their life this way, they'll begin to look forward to a lifetime of daily personal devotions and hearing from God again through His Word.*

3. Highlight Elements of the Gospel. Third, look for places in the story where you can include the elements of the key gospel message while reading the Bible with your child. These gospel elements are:

- God's love;
- Sin which separates us from God's love;
- Jesus bridging that separation; and
- Our need to respond and decide to follow Him.

For example, by looking at the story of Noah's ark, we can see that God created people in His image to be and do wonderful things (an example of God's character and love). The sin of people broke God's heart and destroyed relationship with Him (the gospel element of sin). Through the ark, God provided one way for humanity to be saved (an allegory to the gospel element of God providing one way for salvation, through Jesus). While it was Noah's response of obedience that allowed for his salvation (the gospel element of our need to respond to Jesus). Do you see the gospel picture in that story? It's in nearly every story in the Bible! Even saved children need to hear the gospel of salvation illustrated in as many ways as possible.

4. Identify Christian Principles in the Story. If you're having Bible story time with a saved child, identify in the story at least one Christian principle that they can latch onto as applicable to them throughout daily living. For example, in the story of Noah, you can illustrate God's continual provision during a time of great difficulty — a truth that can provide comfort if your child is struggling with something. Or, we can see the principle of trusting God with what seems impossible by looking at how Noah was completely unable to gather the animals himself, so God delivered them to Noah. *Again, make the application during Bible story time with your child, not at the end.* If the principle can be illustrated more than once, pause, and ask your child if they see what God just did — challenging them to spot the application on their own.

5. Use CEF® Resources. From engaging Biblical story books, games, and lessons for kids, to great training on how to draw out gospel elements and discipleship principles in stories, CEF has a wide variety of resources available to help you teach kids about Jesus and make Bible story time interesting. Contact us to learn more about available resources!

I hope this helps you learn how to make Bible story time with your child interesting!

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