

X-MEN: HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Unit 4: Evangelism

Welcome to Unit 4 of X-MEN: How To Be A Christian. This curriculum is geared for upper elementary children to teach them the basic tenets and disciplines of Christianity. Think of it as Christianity 101 for children. The lessons are a mix of theory and practice best done in small groups or class settings where children can ask questions and participate in discussions.



Fun Fact: The Greek word for Christ is "**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ**" and the Chi Rho is an early Christian symbol (like today's fish symbol) taken from the first two letters, X and P. If we take that first letter, X, that stood for the C in Christ, you can say we really are X-Men!

There is a Workbook for the children that goes along with this curriculum. I recommend printing one for each child and keeping it in a safe place at church so the children don't have to worry about losing it or remembering to bring it every Sunday. I also recommend having a Bible for each child, or encouraging or giving them incentives to bring their own every week.

It is my prayer that children will have a basic understanding of Christian beliefs and disciplines that will become a foundation for their spiritual journey. This unit is about evangelism. It's a big word that can intimidate even adults and long-term believers, but at its core, evangelism is simple. It is telling other people about some good news you received. We do this all the time with graduations, job promotions, engagements, anniversaries, and even before digging into a delicious and pretty plate of food. This unit will help children understand evangelism and challenge them to do it.

I also encourage you, leader, not to discount the ability of your children to understand any concepts that seem too big, too hard, or only for adults and big church. Children are more than capable of serving others to glorify God.

-Angela of Kidmin Together

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TOGETHER

UNIT 4: Evangelism

In the Great Commission, Jesus said, “So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20, ICB).

It sounds like a tall order. Jesus wants us to go find people around the world, make them followers of Jesus, baptize them, and teach them how to be a Christian. Then we look at the disciples and see how they actually did go find people around the world. They traveled to different places telling people about Jesus, baptizing them, teaching them, and also serving, helping, and healing them. They did all of it with little money and a lot of persecution (they were hunted, imprisoned, and eventually executed for their faith). Intimidating! Is this what evangelism is? Is this what we’re supposed to do?

Yes and no. Evangelism, simply put, is telling other people about some good news you received. We do this all the time and do it quickly through social media. We share announcements, engagements, promotions, and our latest meal. Alongside those good news, we can also share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We can share our faith.

It sounds easy, doesn’t it? Because it is! But God doesn’t stop with easy. Jesus wants us to take a step further and make followers to baptize and teach. This unit will introduce children to evangelism and how to easily share the Good News and make followers of Jesus.

Overview

Lesson 1: What is Evangelism?

Lesson 2: How To Tell Someone About Jesus

Lesson 3: How to Invite Someone to Church

Lesson 4: Wordless Book

Lesson 1: What is Evangelism?

Icebreaker

Ask: What is the best news you have ever received? Who was the first person you told?

Say: Today we're starting Unit 4 of X-Men: How To Be A Christian. It's on evangelism. It's a big word, but we'll give it a simple meaning. It means "sharing with other people the Good News of Jesus." When we have really great news, we tell other people. Just like you told people the best news you've ever received. As Christians (as X-Men for Jesus), we have the Good News of Jesus, and it's our job to share it.

Say: Before Jesus went to heaven, He gave us some instructions. It's called the Great Commission. The word "commission" means command or duty. Jesus gave us a big duty to do. Let's read Matthew 28:19-20.

Matthew 28:19-20 (ICB), "So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world."

Say: Let's break this down. Jesus said to:

1. Go in the world
2. Make followers/disciples of all people
3. Baptize them
4. Teach them to obey Jesus

Jesus also promised that He will always be with us to the end of the world/age. That promise is important because it means Jesus will help us do all these things (the Great Commission).

Say: Now that we know our Great Commission or our Big Job as X-Men for Jesus, *how* do we do it? How do we: go in the world, make followers/disciples of all people, baptize them, and teach them to obey Jesus? Write one idea for each section in your workbooks. Then we'll share.

Give them children about 3-4 minutes to fill out their workbooks, then go around and share ideas. Section 3: Baptize them may be hard for the children to figure out. Don't worry. You'll explain this. For now, just have the children brainstorm quickly. You can write down everyone's ideas on a whiteboard so everyone can see.

Say: The HOW can be a little harder to figure out so we'll break it down some more.

Go in the world

When Jesus told His disciples to go in the world. They actually did it. They traveled to different places, met different people, and told them about the Good News of Jesus. Today, we call those people missionaries. But we don't have to be a missionary to go in the world.

Today, what's the fastest way you can talk to someone who lives far away? Through the Internet! You need your parents' permission and be careful that you don't talk to random strangers. But if you have Facebook or Instagram, you can post Bible verses or something great Jesus did in your life.

The "world" is also where we are. It is where we live, the school we go to, and our clubs and sports teams. The "world" is anywhere there are people who don't know Jesus. In your workbooks, write down the name of one person you know personally who doesn't know Jesus.

Make followers/disciples of all people

Ask: How do we become followers of Jesus? Where do we learn how to follow Jesus?

We learn how to follow Jesus at home when we read our Bibles and pray. We also learn how to follow Jesus at church like we're doing right now! To make other people followers or disciples of Jesus, the easiest way we can do is ask them to go to church. If there's a Bible study at your house, you can ask them to go there, too.

Baptize them

How do we baptize other people? The first thing we may think of is water baptism, which our church does when someone is a new believer. Do you know a story in the Bible where people was water baptized? John the Baptist was doing water baptism with a lot of people including Jesus!

Water baptism is a way we tell everyone that we believe Jesus. It's something we do to show other people we're Christians. **Ask:** What do we do to show other people we're one year older? (We have a birthday party!) What do people do to show others they're in love and is going to spend the rest of their lives together? (They get married!) What do we do to show everyone we successfully completed school? (We have a graduation).

When we are water baptized, we're showing other people that we are going to follow Jesus. **Ask:** How else can we do this? How else can we show others we are followers of Jesus? *(If there's a lack of ideas in this section of their workbooks, this is the time children can fill it. Some ideas can be to share our testimonies with other people, join Prayer At The Pole or Christian Club at school, wear shirts with a Bible verse on it, etc).*

Our pastor does the water baptism at church, but we can help other people show their faith in Jesus by showing them how to pray in public or giving them gifts that express their faith (jewelry with a cross or the Christian fish, a binder with a Bible verse on it, or by going to church and church events, and telling people about Jesus).

Teach them to obey Jesus

Ask: What's the easiest way for you to teach someone to obey Jesus?

Invite them to church! It's where you are also learning to obey Jesus. You can invite someone to learn with you! But church isn't the only way to learn how to obey Jesus. We can read the Bible. We can read Christians books and devotionals. We can watch videos on YouTube and movies about the Bible or even Veggie Tales, Superbook, Owlegories, and Bibleman.

Ask: What's your favorite Christian YouTube channel? Do you know any?

Make a list on a whiteboard of Christian YouTube channels that the children like and suggest a list of your own that they can start watching. Here's a few to consider:

1. *Jon Jorgenson*
2. *Jamie Grace*
3. *I Am Second*
4. *That Christian Vlogger*
5. *Bible Munch*

Take Note! Keep the list of the YouTube channels the children suggest and review them yourself. This will give you insight that you can use to help parents and other ministry leaders. It might even inspire you to make your own videos, figure out what teaching your children might need, or figure out what media they enjoy or prefer.

Say: There are different ways to teach other people to obey Jesus, but it starts with you. You need to be obeying Jesus first before you can teach someone else how to do it.

Activity: My Video Testimony

Say: We're going to do a very easy way to evangelize. Remember, evangelism is sharing with other people the Good News of Jesus. We're going to make a video testimony. In workbooks, fill in the blanks on the "My Video Testimony" page.

Say: When you are filling this out, think about that person whose name you wrote in your workbook, the one who doesn't know Jesus. What would you say to him/her?

Fill in the blanks:

Hi, my name is _____.

Jesus changed my life by _____.

You can trust in Jesus because _____.

Record the kids giving their testimonies and post it on your ministry FB page.

Lesson 2: How To Tell Someone About Jesus

Icebreaker: Who Am I?

Prepare: On slips of paper, write down names of people the children know. It can be celebrities or people from church. Fold the papers in half and put it in a hat/box.

Game: Have the children take turns pulling a paper. Give them 1 minute to tell clues about that person to the group. The group has 1 minute to figure out who the person is.

Ask: Was it easy or hard to give other people clues about the person you picked? Why was it easy or hard?

Say: We're learning about Evangelism. Do you remember what it means? It means sharing with other people the Good News of Jesus. But we can't do that if we don't know who Jesus is. The more we get to know Jesus, the easier it is to tell other people about Him!

Workbook Activity: Who Is Jesus?

Have the children fill out this activity. They will need Bibles. The answers are below:

Jesus is:

1. 1 John 2:1 = advocate, righteous one
2. Hebrews 4:14 = great high priest
3. Luke 2:11 = Savior, Messiah, Lord
4. Isaiah 7:14 = Immanuel
5. John 6:35 = bread of life
6. 1 Timothy 1:1 = our hope
7. Isaiah 9:6 = Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
8. John 10:11 = good shepherd
9. Matthew 3:17 = Son (God's Son because God was speaking)
10. John 14:6 = way, truth, life

Say: Interesting fact: Before Christians were called Christians, the followers of Jesus was called Followers of The Way because Jesus said He was the way to God (John 14:6).

Say: It's important to know what the Bible says who Jesus is, but many people haven't read the Bible or understand it. Now that we know what the Bible says, we need to figure

out who Jesus is to us! We're going to brainstorm different adjectives or describing words that we can use to describe Jesus. Write it down on your workbooks.

Say: Now that we know what the Bible says and have our own words to describe Jesus, fill out the next section of your workbooks, "Who Is Jesus to Me?"

Have the kids share their answers.

Say: Those are great answers! Do you know what you just did? You just told other people about Jesus! You shared the Good News of Jesus and that's evangelism! Now, you just have to do the same thing with people who doesn't know Jesus.

Activity: Bible Verse Art & Challenge

Materials: paper, pencils, markers/crayons/colored pencils

Have the children pick one of the Bible verses in the workbook activity and turn it into a Bible verse art. They will write or draw the Bible verse on the paper in creative ways.

Say: We're going to practice telling someone about Jesus. You're going to make Bible verse art. You need to make it GOOD because you're not going to keep it. You're going to give it to one of our pastors today after church. And when you give it to them you'll tell them who Jesus is to you. You can say:

Hi, Pastor _____. This is for you so you remember that Jesus is _____.

To me, Jesus is _____ because He _____.

Lesson 3: How To Invite Someone To Church

Icebreaker

Take turns answering this question: what's the best invitation you've ever gotten? What was it for and did you go?

Ask: Why do we invite people? (to parties, to go out, to do something with us)

Allow time for answers.

Say: We invite people to go somewhere or do something with us because we want to spend time with them or because we want to celebrate with them.

Ask: Do you remember what evangelism is?

Say: Evangelism is sharing with other people the Good News of Jesus. One of the ways we can evangelize is by inviting other people to church and church events because that's one of the places we can celebrate the Good News of Jesus.

Say: There are many invitations in the Bible. Jesus even gave some of them when He called different people to follow Him. This invitation from the Bible is for all of us.

Read Psalm 95:1-7

- 1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
- 3 For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
- 7 for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Ask: Write in your workbooks all the things this Scripture is inviting us to do.

Activity: Invitation Challenge

Materials: paper, construction paper, pencils, markers, etc.

Instructions: Have each child make 3 invitations to give to 3 people to invite them to church or a church event. Write down particular information on the board for the children to copy, such as church address and service times or church event dates, locations, times, etc.

Say: The Bible invites us to worship and celebrate God, and it's our job to evangelize - to invite other people to worship and celebrate God with us. We're going to practice inviting people to church. Fill out the "Invitation Challenge" in your workbooks.

Name 3 people who you know personally that doesn't go to church.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When will you invite them to church? Write down the date and time.

Say: You MUST invite them in person, face to face.

What will you say when you give your invitation?

Say: Don't just say, "Here. This is for you." You have to say something like, "Will you come to church with me?" or "Will you come to [church event] with me?"

What will you say if they ask you *why* they should come?

Say: Don't just say, "Because it's fun." Explain why it's fun. Do you remember what we learned about Jesus last week? You can share that, too. You can say, "You should come because that's where I learn about Jesus and I learned that Jesus is _____."

Lesson 4: Wordless Book

Icebreaker

Take turns answering this question: What's your favorite color? What do you love about that color?

Say: Evangelism is sharing the Gospel. What's the Gospel? The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus! Remember what evangelism is? It is sharing with other people the Good News of Jesus. Today, we're going to learn a very easy way to do that using colors. Each color stands for something different:

Yellow = Heaven

Black = Sin

Red = Blood

White = Clean

Green = Growth

Say: These colors are pages in a book called the Wordless Book because it has no words. It just has the colors! We can use this book to tell the Good News of Jesus in an easy way. This is how. It's also in your workbooks:

Each page in this book has a special meaning. Yellow stands for heaven. God loves us and wants us to be with Him in Heaven. But because we're sinners, we cannot be with God in Heaven.

This dark page reminds us of sin, the darkness we're in, and how when we do something wrong, we need to face the consequences and punishment for it.

Red stands for the blood of Jesus. By dying on the cross, Jesus took the punishment of our sins so we don't have to. The good news is Jesus didn't stay dead. He showed His power over death by coming back to life.

When we believe in Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, we become clean from sin. It frees us to have a relationship with God and be with Him in heaven. This clean page reminds us that our slates are wiped clean.

This last green page stands for growth. It reminds us to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Activity: Wordless Book

Materials: construction papers (yellow, black, red, white, green), scissors, stapler

Instruction: Make wordless books and have the children practice using it with each other.

Say: This is your challenge. After church today, pick one person in church who is not your family member and tell them the Wordless Book story. It can't be a baby or toddler. It has to be someone who understands what you're saying.

Say: This is your 2nd challenge. Tell a friend who doesn't know Jesus the Wordless Book story, and next week, tell me what happened.