

Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.  
- John 4:35

New  
Testament  
Evangelism

[www.NTEvangelism.org](http://www.NTEvangelism.org)

# Evangelizing Our Children

## *Spiritual Growth and Human Development*





## Evangelizing Our Children

What could we say to an infant to help her develop a relationship with God?

- “Fast and pray?”
  - “Study your Bible?”
  - “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?”
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### Stages of Child Development

- Infancy (birth-2 years)
  - Toddlerhood (2-4 years)
  - Early school age (4-6 years)
  - Middle school age (6-12 years)
  - Early adolescence (12-18 years)
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- Humans develop in stages
  - Each stage is characterized by different learning or development
  - Incredible energy is expended to learn what needs to be learned
  - Learning occurs according to development
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Help children learn to relate to God as they are *developmentally ready* for it.

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## Evangelizing Our Children

### Stages of Child Development

- Infancy (birth-2 years)
  - Developmental crisis = Trust/Mistrust
  - Developmental process = Mutuality





## Evangelizing Our Children

### Infancy (birth to 2 years)

- Parental structure, nurturing, and attunement
- Extended family support for parents
- Congregational support for parents
- Parenting information

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# New Testament Evangelism

## Evangelizing Our Children

### Toddlerhood (2 to 4 years)

- Developmental Crisis = Autonomy/Shame and Doubt
- Developmental Process = Imitation







## Evangelizing Our Children

Early School Age (4 to 6 years)

- Developmental crisis = initiative/guilt
- Developmental process = identification





## **Evangelizing Our Children**

### Early School Age (4 to 6 years)

- Live a good example for small children
- Build age-appropriate social relationships with them when with their families, baby-sitting, etc.
- Talk to them about right and wrong as appropriate

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## Evangelizing Our Children

Middle School Age (6 to 12 years)

- Developmental crisis: industry/inferiority
- Developmental process: education





## Evangelizing Our Children

Middle School Age (6 to 12 years)

- Involve them
- Hall set up
- Song books
- Newsletters
- Bulletin boards

**How to study**

**Teenage is too late**



# New Testament Evangelism

## Evangelizing Our Children

### Early Adolescence (12 to 18 years)

- Developmental Crisis = Group Identity/Alienation
- Developmental Process = Peer Pressure



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# New Testament Evangelism

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## Evangelizing Our Children

Question:

Does helping young people develop a relationship with the congregation help them develop a relationship with God?



