Reaching, teaching, keeping the Unreached
Leading our children to bring their friends to Jesus Christ

What does the Bible tell us to expect?

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’

Matthew 28: 18-20

18 Then [the rulers, elders and teachers of the law] called [Peter and John] in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, ‘Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’

Acts 4: 18-20

6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22: 6

Statistically we see what the Bible tells us to expect

Figure 3: Age became a Christian, Sydney Anglicans, NCLS 2011

![Graph showing age distribution of Christian conversion]

- 31.8% Less than 10 years
- 23.8% 10 to 14 years
- 20.6% 15 to 19 years
- 23.8% 20 years and older
How do we create an evangelistic culture in our Church?

1. The Spirit will change the children’s heart as the Bible is taught.
   - Children will obey their Lord!
   - Leaders may need encouragement to draw out the life changing implications as they teach the Bible.
   - Guests, friends and visitors are never just observers. They will be changed too.
     ➔ So teach the Bible and pray for transformed lives.

2. Think about whole families.
   - Parents of pre-schoolers grow a network of friends for evangelism. The parent does the evangelism.
   - Parents of primary schoolers partner with their child in evangelism. Both do the evangelism.
   - Parents of high schoolers support their child in evangelism. The child does the evangelism.
     “For a family to want to settle in a Church, every single member has to want to actively want to come each week” (Tim Keller)
     ➔ So tell the whole Church what you’re doing, planning and what support you’re looking for from the parents.

3. Plan to support the children and their parents as they go and make disciples
   - Every Sunday is an opportunity for the children to invite friends.
   - Plan special events as a chance to focus on evangelism; all age services, after school clubs (monthly?), holiday clubs and many other ideas.
   - 5-7’s just need to be shown where to bring their friends! The parents will need to catch up.
   - 8-11’s are aware of “cool”. Think a little harder about how to be accessible for their friends.
     ➔ So make evangelism part of the culture and DNA of the children’s group.

4. Train your children to be disciple-making disciples
   - Prepare for evangelism with teaching, explanation and prayer.
   - Coach evangelism: Who to invite? What to invite them to? How to invite?
   - Lead the evangelism. Explain the Christian children’s role to them at the event. Welcoming, listening, servers, caring. Let the guests hear. Give the parents feedback.
   - Share their disappointment when friends don’t come. Share their excitement when friends do come.
   - Model perseverance and patience: Remember their friends’ names, ask after them & keep praying.
     ➔ So be dependent on the Lord with your children.