A Gospel Message
from a Children's Work Perspective

Failing to keep the commandments

You may wonder why it's so difficult to obey God's commandments. No matter how hard you try you end up failing God and man. Why? Because of sin. Sin is in you and it causes you to fight against God. So, even though you try to do good, this sin that is in you always wins, making you fail to obey God's commandments even more. This naturally makes you feel unhappy inside knowing that you are falling short of God's love and God's righteousness. This is every man's situation before hearing God's good news.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 7:19-20 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice.
[20]But if what I do not will, this I do, it is no longer I that work it out but sin that dwells in me.

Origin of sin in man and God's severe judgement

Man was created in the image of God so that man may receive God and express Him (Gen 1:26). But, before man chose to receive God into his vessel something terrible happened. Man sinned by disobeying God. Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden and that caused sin to enter into man. Sin coming into man caused man to fall away from God and even caused him to fight against God as an enemy. Not only was man separated from God, but this forced man to be under God's judgement of death.

Romans 5:12 Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned

Colossians 1:21 And you, though once alienated and enemies in your mind because of your evil works,

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death…

Rev 21:8 But the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and fornicators and sorcerers and idolaters and all the [lie], their part will be in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

God's good news

You may be feeling hopeless and empty. You also may feel unsure about your eternal destiny with God. Listen! There is good news! God loves you very much and has prepared a way for you to escape the judgement of death and receive eternal life. That is the life of God!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

The way is to believe into Jesus Christ! God sent His Son Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God to take away the sin that is in you and me! Instead of us paying the price of death, Christ paid the price by dying on the cross for us! What good news!

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

Choosing you before creation

Do you know what? God knew you before He created the universe. He knew everything about you. He knew everything you have done and will do. The bible tells us that God knew us in a detailed way and in His love He chose you before He created the heavens and the earth. He chose you to be His child with a great destiny!

Romans 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Becoming a child of God

The greatest part of God's good news is that you can receive another life, God's life! The way to have God's life is to be "born again", that is to be born of the Spirit. Your old life cannot live according to God but God's life can! To be born again is to become a child of God. As God's child you have God's very life. You are no longer God's enemy but God's child. His Life in you brings you back to Himself with great promise and hope. God promises to always be with you and work in you so that you will be part of His eternal purpose. This is the meaning of our life.

John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, [13]Who were [born] not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3, 6 Jesus answered….Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 John 5:11-12a And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. [12]He who has the Son has the life;

Romans 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Repent, believe, and be saved

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

Do you believe that He died for your sins and God raised Him from the dead?
Do you want to be saved ? Then pray this prayer out loud:

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I need You. Thank You for dying for me. Lord Jesus, forgive me. Cleanse me from all my sins. I believe You rose from the dead. I receive You right now as my Savior and life. Come into me! Fill me with Your life! Lord Jesus, I give myself to You for Your purpose.

Thank you Lord Jesus! I love you Lord Jesus!

Preparing to Lead Your Child to the Lord

1. Understanding the course of the children's service for your gospel message
    a. They realized that there is God the creator
    b. God created everything they see to show He is awesome and loving
    c. Man is special and unique, being different than anything else He created
    d. Knowing God in His characteristics and virtues (from the word and creation)
    e. Learning to develop a proper humanity and character to match God's virtues
    f. Trying to obey God's commandments and live up to His wonderful virtues
2. A good time to preach the gospel is when their heart is soft, mind is enlightened, and their conscience is convicted. A sense of "brokenness."
    a. DURING a time of failure, frustration or crises of behavior
        i. Their head drops and tears are shed when asking them how they are doing with obeying God's word and living up to His virtues
    b. DURING a time that they are not confident in their destiny with God.
    c. DURING a time that they are swept up in the Lord's love desiring to "tie the knot" with God.
    d. <u>ALWAYS follow the Spirit</u> as the inner anointing and the environment to know when and what to speak. Remember your spirit is always willing.
3. Being ready to speak the gospel in season and out of season by the word, ministry, and prayer
    a. Read the bible in a simple way (as a child) and review material like the "Mystery of Human Life" and "Gospel Outlines"
    b. Consider your testimony, the testimony of others, and fellowship
    c. Follow your child through the years. Get into the lessons they get into and talk to them continuously about everything
    d. Make time to listen to them (as a friend), respond simply, then pray privately. You will know when to speak and have years of preparation
4. Speaking the Gospel in consideration of what they received in children service
    a. Starting at a simple point knowing they have some knowledge of God, creation, man, and behavior (from point 1 above)

b. The culmination of all the children's lessons should bring them to a point of failure knowing that they cannot obey God's word or live up to His virtues – not being right towards God and man
c. Start with how they are feeling, which should be where their heart is the most open and sensitive. No matter where you start, even at loving God, it is very good to touch the matter of sin.
d. Follow the Spirit to focus on the items & verses that match their situation
    i. Be sensitive to see where and when the tears shed and confirm their feeling even with your own tears
    ii. When their heart is touched, don't go onto other things but move to the Lord's dying love, receiving life, and praying to receive the Lord.
e. Speak with a heart full of feeling, conviction and compassion.

It may be hard to identify when someone is ready to receive the gospel. Nearly everyone is not happy with how they behave and sometimes "beat themselves up" for not living up to moral standards. Will they give up or try again? Are they ready to repent? For this we need to be before God continually bearing them in prayer in the holy of holies. Below is an excerpt from the book Experience of Life regarding man's condition at regeneration.

"First, we see that our nature is corrupt. Although before regeneration our nature was corrupt, we did not know it. It is at the time of experiencing regeneration, because of the Holy Spirit's enlightenment, that we see ourselves to be corrupt. At this time we see not only that our external deeds are corrupt but also that our inner nature is corrupt.

Second, our heart is contrite and repentant toward God. When we experience regeneration and the Holy Spirit enlightens us, we see ourselves as corrupt, sinning against God and man. Our heart then reproaches us and is contrite and repentant before God.

Third, our spirit is contrite toward God. Because of the repentance of our heart, the spirit deep within us also feels extremely contrite. Our spirit at this time is like that of Psalm 51:17, "a broken spirit." When we are being regenerated of the Holy Spirit, our spirit deep within feels contrite — indeed, as if it were broken."

Here are some points:

- Many agree that they are not happy with their deeds, but when someone realizes the deeper problem of their nature being corrupt they maybe ready for salvation.
- Contrite means broken, made soft, and willing to repent. To repent is to make a turn because of sincere regret and remorse.