

# Effective Strategies for Evangelizing Children in a Catechetical Setting

Presented by Anita Houghton

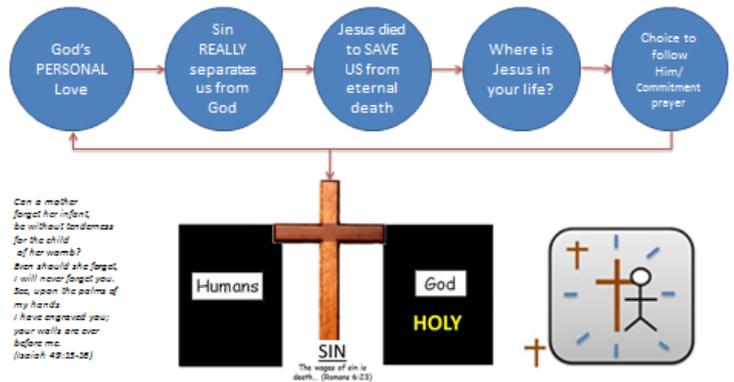
Author of *Kerygma 4 Kids*

anitahoughton@comcast.net

## What is evangelization? Why do we need to incorporate it into our faith formation programs/Catholic schools?



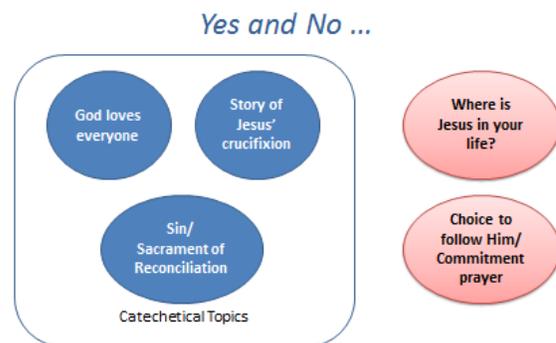
### DISCOVERY FAITH STUDY CONTENT



### Five Factors of Fruitfulness

- An experience of the personal love of God
- A realization that they *need* a Savior
- The intrinsic power of the *kerygma* (Gk. "Preaching" - Greek word used in the New Testament to refer to the proclamation of the gospel message.)
- An opportunity to make a choice to surrender one's whole life to Christ
- An open environment for discussion

### Isn't this Message in our Textbooks?



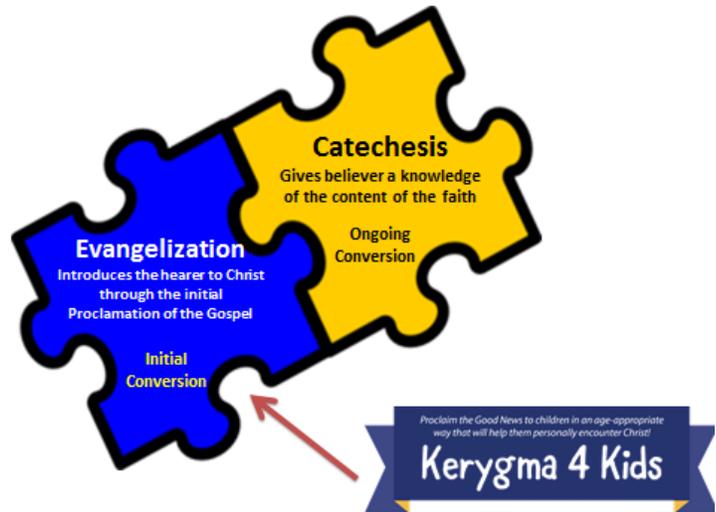
**Catechesis Presumes a Relationship with Jesus Christ**

Within the whole process of evangelization, the aim of catechesis is to be the teaching and maturation stage, that is to say, the period in which the Christian, having accepted by faith the person of Jesus Christ as the one Lord and having given Him complete adherence by sincere conversion of heart, endeavors to know better this Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself.

(St. John Paul II, *Catechesis in Our Time*, 20)

**So, what do we do?**

But in catechetical practice, this model order must allow for the fact that the initial evangelization has often not taken place ... many pre-adolescents and adolescents who have been baptized and been given a systematic catechesis and the sacraments still remain hesitant for a long time about committing their whole lives to Jesus Christ...



This means that "catechesis" must often concern itself not only with nourishing and teaching the faith, but also with arousing it unceasingly with the help of grace, with opening the heart, with converting, and with preparing total adherence to Jesus Christ on the part of those who are still on the threshold of faith. (*Catechesis in Our Time*, 19)

**You have a Tremendous Opportunity!**

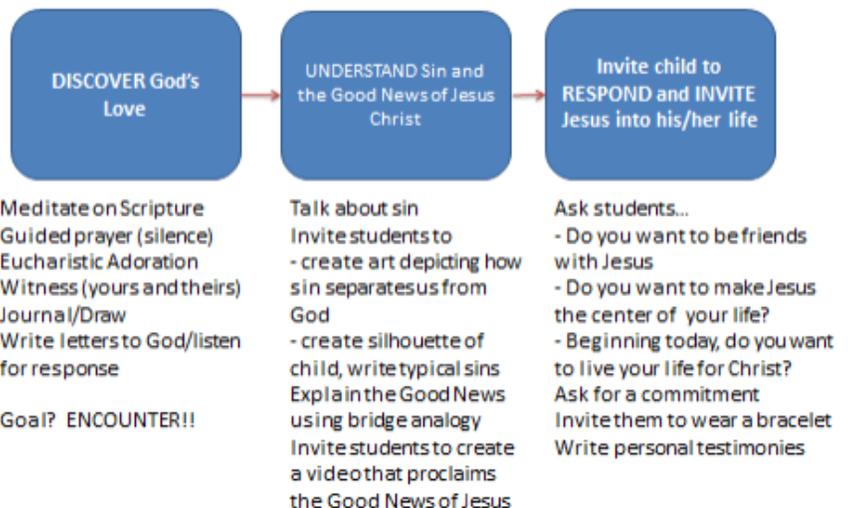
According to the Barna Group, the primary window for effectively reaching people with the Good News of Jesus’ death and resurrection is in their childhood, because it is during these years that they will develop their spiritual and moral framework for the rest of their lives. Nearly half of all Americans who will ever believe in Christ will do so before reaching the age of 13.

*The Barna Group, LTD., "Evangelism is Most Effective Among Kids," Research Releases in Family and Kids, Oct 11, 2004, <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids/> (accessed Oct 23, 2016).*

**How Do We Evangelize Kids?**

**Prerequisites:**

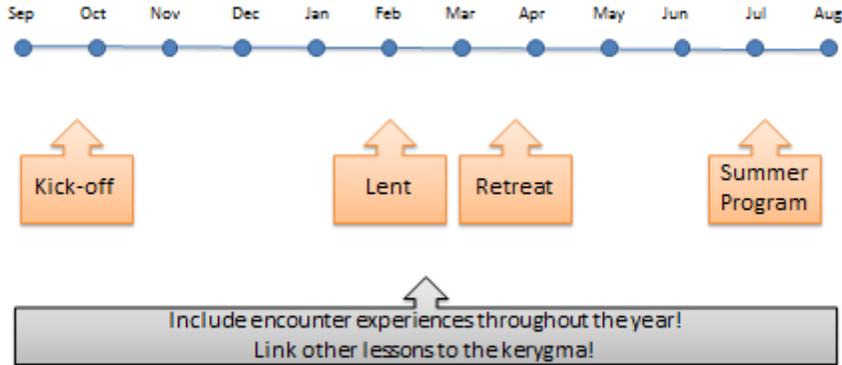
- Anticipate the way a child may feel God’s presence or absence in his/her life
- Help the child know that Jesus is real
- Pay attention to your language
- Be able to describe an experience of God
- Expect God to act



### **The Fruit of Evangelization**

- Children will enter into lived relationship with Jesus Christ
- Children will have an increased desire to learn about their “new friend”
- Children will want to go to Mass
- Children will begin the process of spiritual growth – with the help of parents, catechists and teachers

### **How should I weave an evangelization lesson into my existing program?**



### **How do I learn more about Kerygma 4 Kids?**

<http://ministry23.com/kerygma-4-kids/>

#### Kerygma 4 Kids Product Overview

- Each grade has 1 evangelization lesson
- Grades K-5 (60 min); Grades 6-8 (90 min)
- Components:
  - Leader Guide
  - Student Workbook
  - DVD (Leader Training, 3 video clips for each grade)

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