

# Reaching, teaching, keeping the Unreached

Leading our children to bring their friends to Jesus Christ



## What does the Bible tells us to expect?

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'

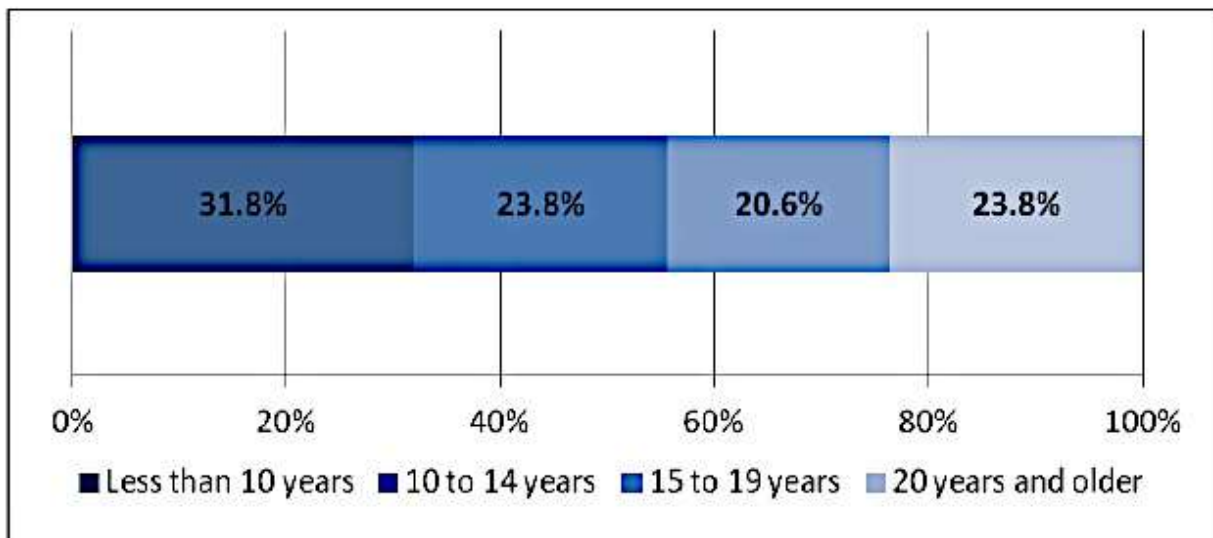
Acts 4: 18-20

<sup>6</sup> 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



# Reaching, teaching, keeping the Unreached

Leading our children to bring their friends to Jesus Christ



## 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.*