**Biblical Basis of Child Conversion Essay Questions**

As you answer the questions below, be sure to use complete sentences (proper grammar, spelling, etc.). When referencing Scripture passages, type out the portion of the verse that connects the thoughts together. Please do not simply state a Scripture reference. Reference material should be used throughout the assignment. Be sure to use at least five sources besides the Bible to substantiate your answers. Use proper citations throughout. Word count includes only your answers to the questions. (Be sure to read the **Requirements for Essay Questions and the Biblical Basis Essay Grade Sheet** prior to beginning this assignment.)

1. Explain why you believe that children are lost. Why do you believe they need to be evangelized? (Use Scripture, statistics, and other resources to substantiate your answer. Provide 350-450 words.)
2. Discuss the four main philosophies held regarding child evangelism. With each philosophy, include discussion as to why you either agree or disagree with it. Be sure to use Scripture and outside sources to support your answers. Answer should immediately follow the definition of the philosophy. (Provide 300-450 words **per philosophy**).

**TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

*The Christian life of the child is formed by his environment. Conversion is a phenomenon of adolescence and until he has the use of reason (around twelve years of age) the child is not lost, since he is safe under the covenant by belonging to a Christian family (CEF 2016, 30).*

**EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

*The child should receive biblical knowledge from a very young age and develop Christian habits and attitudes. One day he will make a personal decision for Christ, and be saved (CEF 2016, 31).*

**PSYCHOLOGICAL PHILOSPHY**

*The child is incapable of understanding symbolism and abstract concepts and is unable to reason; therefore, he cannot make a decision for Christ (CEF 2016, 32).*

**CHILD EVANGELISM PHILOSOPHY**

*The Gospel should be presented to the child at an early age so that as the Holy Spirit works, he will come to know Jesus as his personal Savior. As a result, the child can begin to develop Christian character, which is the outward expression of a new inward life (CEF 2016, 33).*

1. Discuss Matthew 18:1-14 thoroughly in regard to child conversion. (Total word count is 900-1100 words.)

Include in the essay answers to the following questions:

1. What was happening in the passage?
2. What Greek words are used to describe the child? Write out the words and their meaning. Be sure to connect the significance of the words meaning in context of the passage.
3. From verse six, how can people “offend” children who believe in Jesus? How does God view the offense?
4. From verses 6-14, how do you know that children can be saved?
5. Why do you believe this passage is speaking about children and not merely new believers?
6. Discuss Mark 10:13-16. Explain what was happening in the passage. Does this passage support child conversion? If yes, how? If no, what does it teach? (Provide 450-550 words.)
7. Explain Colossians 1:2; 3:20 and Ephesians 1:1; 6:1 and the significance of these passages to childhood conversion. (Provide 300-450 words.)
8. Discuss the following passages in Deuteronomy: 4:1-10; 6:1-9; 11:18-21; and 31:9-13. While the Old Testament does not speak about “child evangelism,” it teaches much about the responsibility of the parents’ role in passing on their faith to the next generation. (Provide 950-1100 words.)
9. Discuss the significance of these passages as well as how these passages line up with the teaching in the New Testament about child conversion.
10. Include Hebrew words *ben, taph, shama, lamad and yada* in answers as appropriate. Be sure to give the meaning of the words and the significance of the words in helping to understand the passage.
11. Discuss Psalm 78:1-8. In your answer include key thoughts from the passage as it relates to the parents as well as why this passage important when considering childhood conversion. (Provide 250-350 words.)
12. Scripture teaches that the requirement for salvation is faith. However, some people say: *“Children are too young to reason; therefore, they cannot make a decision for salvation until adolescence.”* Refute this statement, including in your answer Scripture and other supporting evidence proving salvation is for all, regardless of age. (Provide 200-300 words.)
13. What does Scripture seem to teach about the “Age of Accountability (Comprehension)”? (Provide 250-350 words.)
14. Based on Scripture, your reading, and lectures what seems to be the Christian’s responsibility regarding child evangelism today? (Provide 300-450 words.)