

Parents: If you're thinking about sending your kids to the Good News Club, please read this first.

The Good News Club is a controversial after-school program that holds classes in public elementary schools in order to evangelize young children.

Good News Clubs are sponsored by the Child Evangelical Fellowship (CEF), a large, Missouri-based religious organization. CEF's mission is to convert children aged 4-14 to their extreme version of fundamentalist Christianity.

Parents: Your permission is required to send your children to Good News Club classes and, of course, it's your decision. But here are a few things you might want to consider before you sign the permission slip.

The Good News Club wants to convert young children to its religious beliefs, regardless of the parent's beliefs or wishes.

Because the Good News Club believes it is their moral duty to try to convert "every child," they don't always respect parents' wishes regarding religious teachings.

A Good News Club missionary recently said to a reporter, *"We know without any doubt that any child that doesn't give their life to Christ is going to be tortured in Hell for eternity. So to respect a parent's right to keep their child from being saved would simply be immoral on our part."*



The Good News Club flyers and permission slips don't tell the whole truth.

With promises of snacks, songs, games, and Bible stories, Club flyers make classes sound like harmless fun. They don't make it clear that the goal of the Good News Club is to indoctrinate children and convert them to its fundamentalist beliefs. Nor do they disclose the Club's focus on sin and punishment and use of shame and fear to convert children.

"Every week, we sang songs, did crafts, all kinds of fun stuff. Then they got out the heavy guns. We were sinners and God had a place for sinners. We were all going to Hell. If we didn't know what that was, they made sure they told us. What impact does it have on a six-year old to be told that she is so bad she is worthy of Hell?"
(former Good News Club student)

The Good News Club implies it is mainstream Bible-study, but it's really fundamentalist indoctrination.

The Good News Club teaches an extreme version of fundamentalism with an unusual focus on sin and punishment. For example, the Good News Club curriculum has over 5,000 references to sin, 1,000 references to hell and punishment, and only one reference to the Golden Rule.

Here's an example of what the Good News Club teaches to children as young as five:

"Others may think that you are a good person, but God knows what you're really like on the inside. He knows that deep down you are a sinner--you were born that way. Because you have sinned, you don't deserve to go to Heaven. Instead you deserve to go to Hell and be separated from God forever."

(From the Good News Club curriculum)

The Good News Club's teachings can be psychologically damaging to young children.

The Good News Club curriculum tells young children that they're born wicked, bound for an eternity in hell unless they obey the Good News Club's teachings without question or doubt. It gives children frightening ideas about the wickedness of human nature, and negative ideas about people of other faiths. According to psychologists, these teachings can be traumatic for some children, inflicting psychological damage that can last into adulthood.



Example of Good News Club class exercise.

"Such deep and confusing fear is not easily forgotten." (former Good News Club student)

Protect Our Children is a coalition of concerned parents, grandparents and citizens.

Our mission is to raise awareness about the Good News Club and give parents and school administrators the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. See our website for more information. <http://protectourchildren.care>



Protect Our Children supports freedom of religion and freedom of speech. We also support the separation of church and state, and hold that public schools should be religiously neutral and free from evangelizing.