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| Good News ReportAugust 2018 |
|  | *Children of Divorce*Have you experienced behavioral problems in your Good News Club?Could it possibly be the crisis the children are living in today?Individual Highlights:**Dilemma of Divorce****Damaging Effects****Age-related Responses****Hope for Healing****Other Ways to Help** |

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| The Dilemma of Divorce | This generation is known as the generation of divorce. Divorce *“attacks the self, because the self is formed within the belonging and meaning provided by the family. When it is destroyed, the threat of lost place and lost purpose becomes a reality. Without place or purpose, one becomes a lost self.”* (Andrew Root, *Children of Divorce,* 21) |
| “Each year, over one million American children suffer the divorce of their parents. Moreover, half of all children born to married parents this year will experience the divorce of their parents before they reach their 18th birthday.”The Heritage FoundationBorn again Christians are just as likely to get a divorced as are non-born-again adults. Overall 33% of all born again individuals who have been married have gone through a divorce. ---George Barna, Barn Research Group. (CEF 2013,15)  |  |
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| The Damaging Effects of Divorce |
| The damaging effects of divorce can be both immediate and long-term. Consider what the typical child experiences in a divorce situation:* Loss of a stable home life--possible relocation involved
* Loss of neighborhood/friends having to adjust to new friends/school, etc.
* Lower standard of living, living with a single parent, less money
* Collapse of family structure including extended family
* Loss of security, where will we live?

 ***The trauma that comes from divorce bring confusion and struggle to children.*** The children may respond to this trauma in a variety of ways such as:* Anxiety
* Fear
* Worry
* Anger
* Loneliness
* Depression
* Resentment
* Helplessness
* Hopelessness
* Separation anxiety
* Abandonment issues
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| Child psychologist Dr Lee Salk, calls divorce “The forever funeral.”**A little girl by the name of Candice said, *“What upsets me the most about my parents’ divorce is the hurt you get down deep.”* (15)** | Age-related Responses of Divorce |
| **Toddlers (2-4 years-old)** Regression, dependency increases, passivity in some**Young children (5-8 years-old)**Regression, guilt, abandonment fears, sadness, fantasy**Older children (9-12 years-old)**Anger, alienation, disappointment, spiritual disillusionment**Teens (13-19 years-old)**Resentment, fear, withdrawal, depression, loyalty issues, emotionally drained, peace-keeping The long-term effects of divorce can be traumatic:* Physical, mental and emotional health issues
* Learning disabilities
* Social/relationship problems
* Drug abuse and addiction
* Crime
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| Hope for Healing |
| There is hope for the brokenhearted. ***“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*** Psalm 34:18 (NIV) A vital lifeline is available for these children through a caring, trusted adult. How about in your Good News Club®? These children need to be heard, so listen with care, “listen with your ears, eyes and heart.”(6) Make eye contact with them and allow them to express how they feel by asking them, “What are you feeling?”  | You as their teacher play a vital role sometimes as the only adult to help needy children see their value in God’s eyes. As you work with the children, know their greatest need is Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Teach them how to have a realtionship with their Heavenly Father, teach them how to talk with Him anytime through prayer and teach them He will never leave them or forsake them. They will find great comfort knowing you are praying for them as well.  |
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CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship.) 2013. “Children at Risk.” In *Understanding Today’s Child.* Warrenton, MO: CEF Press/Children’s Ministry Institute.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/to-the-sons-and-daughters-of-divorce>

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| Other Ways to Help |
| Make the children feel special by praising any good behavior and praising their strengths. Teach children key scriptures that speak God’s special plans for their life, and ones they can cling to in their current situation. Make sure you include in your teachings, real-life divorce illustrations. A great party lesson available through our website is “Shawn’s Search for True Love.” Boys can be more impacted from divorce because they internalize. Encourage male role models. Make every effort to plug the children into your church including their families. Jesus Christ is the **LIGHT** in the dark world in which they live. He is the **HOPE** for the broken, confused, and the lonely. We have been given the privilege to minister to the brokenhearted “children of divorce.”  |  **To God be the Glory!** |  |
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