

Child Dedication**Sermon Study Guide****April 3, 2022****Sermon Outline**

1. Children Are Precious
2. Children Need Spiritual Guidance
3. Children Are A Pattern

QUESTIONS:

1. What are legitimate reasons to have, or not have, children? (wehavekids.com)

Google "**10 Reasons Why People Want Kids (and 10 Reasons They Don't)**."

Reasons to Have Children

They Want to Create a Family
 To Carry on the Family Name and Values
 You Love Babies and Small Children
 Human Biology – It's Natural
 To Give and Receive Unconditional Love
 To Give Your Children the Chance to Enjoy Existence
 To Give Meaning to Their Life
 To Create and Mold a Life
 To Fix the Mistakes of Their Parents
 Social Pressure and Expectations

Reasons to Not Have Children

Environmental Impact (CO² issues)
 Economic Impact
 Stress Levels
 Unhappiness
 Sleep Deprivation
 Poor Eating and Lifestyle Habits
 Overpopulation
 Logistics
 Passing Down Physical/Mental Health Issues
 Marital Issues

2. Read Matthew 19:13-15



¹³ Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

3. Why do you think parents brought their children to Jesus? What were they expecting from him? What did they want him to do or say?



4. Think about Jesus praying for children. What do you think he said?

How would he have prayed for children that he had never met before?

Imagine that you are Jesus and say (or write) a prayer for the child in the picture.

Why do you think Jesus "placed his hands on them"? What is the significance of touch and prayer?

5. Think of three or four reasons (good and/or bad) why the disciples may have rebuked the people/parents for trying to connect children with Jesus?

6. First, read Matthew 19:14 with the tone of voice that you think Jesus may have had.

Second, read Mark 10:14 and consider whether your tone reflects Jesus' tone.

7. As a child, were you dedicated to the Lord? (or baptized?) If so, do you have any memory, pictures, or documentation of the occasion? How significant was the event for you or for your parents?

8. If you have children, have you dedicated them to the Lord in a ceremony? How would you describe the experience?

9. Reflect on your early years. What are some ways or situations in which you were “brought to Jesus”? What are some ways or situations in which you were “hindered” from being with Jesus?

10. What are some ways in which you can “bring a child to Jesus” in the near future?

11. What would you say to the university professor at a Christian university who tells students that they shouldn’t make a firm commitment to God until their minds were fully developed at 25 years of age?

12. What did Jesus mean when he said, “the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (children)”?

a. Consider the parallel passage in Mark 10:15 – “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

b. Consider that the story which follows each of the three parallel passages (Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17) is the story of the rich man who asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus’ response was that “it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

c. Consider Matthew 18:1-4.

¹“The disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

d. Consider Mathew 18:12-14

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones... ¹²If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

PART 2

- Read the story of “Jesus Presentation in the Temple”. (Luke 2:22-35)
- Take note of the words that Simeon said to Mary in verse 35 – “And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”
- Read the story of Jesus’ last interaction with his mother, Mary. (John 19:25-27)
- Consider the agony of Mary as she stands near the cross where her son is suffering.
- Consider the thoughtfulness of Jesus as he arranges for her well-being before he dies.
- ? What are some of the blessings and burdens of parenthood that you have experienced?
- ? What are some of the responsibilities you have toward your parents?