



Week 4: Raising the Next Generation

Big Idea: Children are the future of God's church. Under him, we want to raise a generation of children and young people to live as life-long disciples who will also make disciples.

Pray for mission partners and your time in the word together



Discuss: What is the greatest legacy someone could leave when they die?

Transition: We're going to be talking about 'raising the next generation' today. For those who are parents, some of the relevance is immediately clear, but we want to think bigger than parenting to consider how we as a church family are together called to raise the next generation to know Jesus.



1. What do the following Old Testament passages show us about the place of children in God's plans? [as a group, have one person read each passage and ask the group to summarise what it adds to the picture of children in God's plans - as brief as possible here]
 - a. Genesis 1:28
 - b. Genesis 3:16a
 - c. Genesis 15:5
 - d. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 - e. Psalm 127:3-5
 - f. Isaiah 56:4-5



2. What do the following passages show us about how faith in Jesus changes the way we think about family and children?
 - a. Matthew 10:34-36
 - b. Matthew 10:37
 - c. Matthew 12:46-49
3. What's confronting or challenging about these verses? How have you experienced the outworking of these ideas in your life?

Read Mark 10:13-16



4. Why do you think the disciples acted as they did? What assumptions were they making about children and about Jesus?



5. What do these verses reveal about Jesus' attitude towards children?
6. What do these verses show us about entering Jesus' kingdom?



7. What are some of the ways children could be hindered from 'coming to Jesus'?
What are some of the ways children could be helped to 'come to Jesus'?

8. What opportunities do you see for yourself to help children come to Jesus?

a. If you're not a parent, how can you partner with and support parents in discipling their kids?

b. If you're a parent, how can you partner with our wider church family to disciple kids?

[Optional if time allows]



Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25

9. What are the ways Moses called the Israelites to shape the next generation around God and his word?



10. Are there things we could emulate? What might be different as Christians?

Pray together about these things.

Note for parents: There's a parenting event "Parenting for Eternity" coming up next Saturday 16th Nov. It'll be a great opportunity to keep thinking about what it looks like to be a disciple-making parent.



Discussion Question



Context Question



Structure Question



Observation Question



Meaning Question



Application Question