



WISDOM

WISDOM: Families Worth Fighting For

June 27, 2021 | Speaker: Michael Yudt, Director of Children's Ministry

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Purpose of message:

Celebrate what God did at DRCC's Kids Camp (June 21-25), but more importantly help everyone have better understanding of the challenges that families are facing in raising kids today, and how as the body of Christ all of us have a role to play in shepherding the hearts of the next generation.

Highlight from DRCC's Kids Camp (aka VBS) the week of June 21-25:

- 80 volunteers
- 170 kids (150 in person, 20 virtual)
- 44 kids made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus and 7 kids rededicated their life to Christ!
- Over \$2,000 raised by the kids for Mt. Airy Net (local food pantry)
- Kids learned about the early church from the book of Acts
- One of the key verses from week: 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here."

Reaching the Next Generation:

- At DRCC we believe that it is the role of parents and guardians to serve as the primary spiritual leaders for their children.
- We also believe that everyone has a role to play in impacting the next generation, regardless of whether you have kids or regardless of what stage of life you are in. The truth is families today need the support of the larger church now more than ever!
- Key Verse from Proverbs showing a timeless and valuable principle in reaching the next generation. "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6, NIV)
- They are a lot of "ways" or directions that we as parents can choose to point our kids in. As Christian parents and guardians, our number one job is to point our kids to Christ. See John 14:6.
 - It's important to clarify that this does not mean that we have ultimate control of the decision they will make. Their life is ultimately in God's hands, not ours, and it's never too late for people to return to Jesus (remember the story of the Prodigal Son).

3 Significant Cultural Challenges for Parents and Guardians in Raising Kids Today:

It is important for everyone to understand the following challenges that parents and guardians are facing today in relation to our culture, as we all have a role to play in encouraging and equipping the next generation of Christ followers.

1. **We live in a highly divided culture** and this divisiveness has pervaded the church. Christ's call is for unity among believers. See John 17:20-23.
2. **We live in a culture that is morally confused.** Similar to the days of the Judges in the Old Testament, we live in a time where people are doing what is right in their own eyes rather than according to the standards of God.
3. **We live in a culture that is easily distracted.** Even good things can distract us from focusing on Christ. The early church maintained a strong focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and in doing so is a good example of living out the words of Hebrews 12:1-2.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(for personal and small group discussion)

1. How can you start your children off on the way they should go? OR – how can you help other families who are seeking to do this?
2. What implications do the words of Jesus in John 14:6 have for reaching the next generation?
3. Do you agree with this statement: As Christian parents and guardians, our number one job is to point our kids to Christ. Why or why not?
4. We all have a role to play in encouraging and equipping the next generation of Christ followers: what is your role?
5. Where, if anywhere, do you see signs that the divisiveness of the culture has impacted the church?
6. Where do you see signs of moral confusion in our culture and how has that impacted Christian parents and guardians today in raising their kids?
7. What is distracting you from having a focus on Christ?

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