



Week 2

From Infant to Child

The Opening Question

Based on your life's experience, what is the best part of the "baby phase" of parenting? What is the hardest part of the "baby phase" of parenting?

Watch the Video Clip

Key Teaching Points

Because of Christ, I am not now what I used to be, and I am not now what I will be.

The most important you will ever do in this life is come alive in Christ!

Spiritual infancy is a natural part of our faith journey, but it is not a place we are meant to stay.

The compelling teaching of the New Testament is growth: from born again to spiritual infancy, toward maturity in Christ.

In what other organization can you be in the "beginner phase" for years and years and that be okay?

NEXT STEPS: Eat, practice the basics, and let the right people care for you. And if you know a spiritual infant, HELP THEM!

Scripture

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:1-3, NIV)

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? (1 Corinthians 3:1-3, NIV)

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is

for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
(Hebrews 5:12-14, NIV)

Discussion Questions

What did you find helpful about today's teaching?

What did you find confusing or disagreeable about today's teaching?

If you have been or are in the "infancy" spiritual growth phase right now, how would you describe what it's like to "crave pure spiritual milk?"

Why do you think the New Testament teaching seems mostly negative towards spiritual infancy?

What are the barriers to moving from spiritual infancy to childhood? What do you think is the hardest part about breaking through this barrier?

The most crucial next step for spiritual infants is to let the right people care for them. What are the characteristics of a good healthy church that spiritual infants need?

How can a spiritual infant surround him or herself with the right people to help them grow spiritually?

Has anyone here had a great spiritual mentor? How did you get connected with this person?

Bill mentions having a "911 person" that you can call or text any time. Do you have that? How has that helped you spiritually?

How can we as a group function in a way to help everyone in the group grow spiritually?

What is one thing you are dealing with right now that may be preventing you from growing spiritually?

Pray

Let's close in prayer by naming those barriers before God. He can move mountains. So whatever is in the way of keeping anyone in the group from growing, let's declare that before the Lord, believing He will move those mountains. God DESIRES everyone in your group to grow. So also take time to ask Him to reveal to everyone in the room people they need to allow to care for them. Ask God to provide mentors and 911 people in everyone's lives. Ask God to give everyone humility and courage to ask for help when they need it. And thank God for the way He has already cared for everyone by bringing them together in this group and providing others in their lives to care for them. Finally, ask God to help everyone who is in the spiritual infancy phase to crave the pure spiritual milk but ultimately move on to childhood. And ask God to help those who are no longer spiritual infants to have the compassion and courage to care for those who are.