

**Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions:
Living inSanity - Generational Health
Matthew 18 & Psalm 78**

What is our culture's view of children? In what ways do people in our culture demonstrate that they value children? In what ways do they demonstrate disregard for children?

How does God view children? Can you think of passages of Scripture that speak to the value of children?

The Bible presents us with the highest possible view of children. Jesus embraced children and rebuked his disciples for hindering them from coming to Him (Mark 10:14; Matt. 19:14). He also used children as a metaphor for the kind of faith that His followers should exhibit (Luke 18:17). And finally, when people believe in Jesus, He gives them the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

Children are important to God

How did the disciples feel about all the parents bringing their children to Jesus? Why would they try to stop them?

What does this reveal about their understanding of Jesus' ministry and teachings?

In the minds of the disciples, the children didn't measure up in the eyes of the disciples. Jesus, though, had a different opinion.

Children know dependence

What is the primary difference between the way Jesus and the disciples saw the children?

What kinds of things does this teach us about the nature of God's kingdom? What kinds of things does it teach us about the nature of God's grace?

Children know bold faith

Jesus put a stop to the disciples' action. He held out His arms to the children. We must be like a little child to enter the kingdom. God builds His kingdom on childlike characteristics: trust, love, innocence, lack of power, lack of pretension, lack of credentials. Faith is the awareness of our spiritual helplessness that leads to humility before God, trust in Him, and obedience to Him.

To have generational health we must: Psalm 78

1. Commit to teach and live his Word.

2. Tell the story

3. Tell your story

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What do you think it means to “impress” God’s commandments on your children? When might it be appropriate to “talk about” the Lord with your children in your context?

What most often distracts you and your family from humbly seeking the Lord?

How might you go about limiting those distractions this week?

Are there any patterns of thought or behavior that are not consistent with being childlike in your approach to God? What are some practical ways you can counter those?