

Give you all.

Just wanted to give you all again,
I'm Adam. Just wanted to give you
guys a few points from the scripture
that Clay read just a few moments
ago. Very wonderfully. I mean this, these
verses really remind us what the
temperament and the mindset that we need
to have as children of God. Who
will enter into the Kingdom of God and so
I want to talk about some of these verses
and then just talk about why serving in
youth and why youth ministry is
important, what it means to me, what it
has meant to me and what I believe, what
it means to this church and this
community. So one of the things that I
wanted to highlight from Mark 10/13
through 15 is notice how the Lord
Jesus, he elevates the kids, the children
as his disciples were indignant against
them. And so I don't know how
many of the youngest Childs we have
in here, but if you're the youngest

child. Or, you know, you grew up in a household where people were overlooking you or, you know, they didn't take you seriously. How how refreshing it is that we have a Lord, a Heavenly Father who focuses on us, who pays attention to us. And so that's something that I found interesting because we grew up in this environment. And we may not always be prioritized, but Jesus is specifically targeting these children and He's elevating them. Another thing is in verse 15 where it says truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. I think this Sunday is very important because it reminds us. And it, it, it causes you to remember what it was like to be a child. I'm still young, I'm still growing up. But I think a lot of times we forget what it was like to just have that childlike faith. Your parents tell you to do something. You don't ask any questions. You just do it.

Or maybe you do. Maybe you do talk back.
I don't know. Maybe you did when you were
OK. But at the end of the day. It's like
Jesus is reminding us that it is
important for us to have this childlike
faith because as we get older, we start
getting inundated and bombarded with jobs
and careers and families. We think we we
get, we think we get really smart and
we just start having these ideas and it
it, it. Blocks this ability for us to
just be pure and innocent and just run to
Jesus because he's our our Lord and our
savior. So those are just some of the
things that I wanted to highlight for you
guys because at the end of the day, I
mean, if if we don't have this childlike
faith that we believe that Jesus Christ
died. For us and rose from the dead and
gave us the ability to spend salvations
with him. If we don't have that childlike
faith, it'll be very difficult and
impossible for us to have that faith and
enter into his presence when we leave

this world. OK, so why is youth group, why is youth ministry important? Well, I think simply. But it it's the next generation, Pastor said this last week. I mean, we're training our children. We're training our kids to equip themselves to fight against the Kingdom of darkness. You remember when you were a child growing up. I mean, the stuff that's going on in this day with social media and the news, I mean, it's, it's crazy, it's craziness, it's chaos. And so it's important for us to equip our children, our youth with the gospel first and foremost with the. Knowledge and the wisdom on how to approach situations, that they know the story of Jesus Christ, that they know the gospel, that they have the ability to share with their friends, with their families, that they have the awareness on how to handle situations. So those are things that it is important for us to do while serving in ministry and. Why it's, it's, it's vital to this

church. And like I said, it just trains the next generation because we do know that Jesus is coming back. And so it's, it's on us to train and equip. So that way this world is ready to receive our Lord and our Savior. One thing that I did want to highlight as well is. You know, your kids come to youth ministry for an hour, hour and a half every Wednesday, but it is so important for parents to also be involved as well at their homes, in their houses, teaching their their children, because we only get them for an hour, an hour and a half. But I believe it is. The parents first responsibility to teach their children the gospel, to teach their children about the story of Jesus Christ. That's that's just something that that I wanted to to also highlight. With that being said, I'll hand it over to Lizzie, but I just wanted to to thank Roy. I wanted to thank Larry, I wanted to thank Robert and his wife

Darcy. These guys are and and ladies are just so faithful in Sunday school on Wednesday nights. Just helping out with myself. And I just wanted to just give a shout out to him because they've just been faithful volunteers ever since I've been here. So thank you, guys. With that being said, I'll just hand it over to Miss Lizzie.

Alright, I'm a little bit shorter. I

gotta There we go. OK.

All right, this will come in here in just a little bit. Thank you. OK, I am very excited to be able to talk with you all this morning about the importance of kids and student ministry. But when I was preparing, I thought, ohh, man, I have to speak longer than two to three minutes and I normally do. When I'm down on the side, and while I have done my fair share of speaking to adults in my time in ministry, you guys are a little bit different crowd than what I typically deal with on Sunday mornings and

Wednesday nights. But don't worry, like you saw because of who I am as a person and a kids director. We have an object lesson later on, so it'll be great. It'll be great. I really appreciate all the stuff that Adam said this morning and how, you know, the Lord elevates children. He loves kids. He wants them to come to Him. And so hopefully you hear that too, as I'm speaking this morning. So I think I have loved kids ministry since I was a kid in kids ministry. I was the kid that was like, ohh, is it church time? Can we go? Can I go now? You know, I mean, I was up here whenever I could be, as much as I could be. And as I grew older and had opportunities to begin serving in different capacities, my love for the church grew and everything in my life felt like it pointed to me working in kids ministry. So I used to joke and say that what else would I do with my life? This was ingrained in me from a very

young age because of my family, because of my grandparents, the things that they have done in their lives and in their ministry. But I realized more and more, I'm not really joking. There's so much truth to that, that they were just great.

Examples set before me but.

The other kind of unique thing is not everybody in ministry has the opportunity to go back to the church that served them as a kid. And so while the Lord worked it out for me to come back here, a big part of why I do what I do is because of the church, because of all of you. So there's many of you guys out. They're like just even scanning across that prayed for me and guided me and taught me and encouraged me as a kid and as a student. And I really could go through and like point to every single one, but I think that would take a very long time. And so I just want to say thank you to all those that encouraged me as I was. Growing up. Family has

always been and still are. They're very supportive of me and my ministry. But one thing that I really appreciate about my parents and my grandparents is that they understood the value of having other Christ centered adults speaking into my life at every stage of my life.

Church is a community that we come to and that we are part of, and the Lord gave us a community. He gives us a body of believers right to be a part of, and we crave that just as humans in general, we crave community. So if we crave that as adults. You can imagine our kids and our students crave it too, just on a different level.

Everybody, we want to belong. And so I think the church and kids and student ministry is a great place to start looking for community. So I have to give a few reasons why I love kids ministry.

I just love kids ministry. But so the first one would obviously be the snacks. If you're hungry, come see me, OK? We

have fruit snacks and veggie straws for days and the kids are always very kind and reminding us if we forget about snack, which is very helpful. So I also love that you literally. Never know what they're going to say, especially some of our younger friends. They really take you on a journey that you were not expecting when they give you an answer and it's great every time. Our kids also know how to have the most fun at all times. I don't know if you guys knew, but kids, you guys are hilarious and you take everything we do to the next level. And you just make it super fun. So we appreciate the fun over here in kids ministry. Another thing that I love is that they challenge me. For those of you that have worked with kids and students before, sometimes the thoughts and the questions that come out of them, you're like, OK, I need to think about that. Where I need to go back to the word to figure out. An answer of a question that

you just asked me. And that's great that we are continuously being challenged by even you guys, but even our kids. And then another thing I love is that when I'm teaching or I'm speaking or something like that and you see that light bulb moment go off, you see it just like click for them or I ask a question and they like hand shoot up. Because they're so excited, they can't wait to share. I love that. That brings me way more joy than I think was ever possible. So again, I could keep going, but we would be here for a while, so.

I heard a stat years ago and I confirmed it. I looked it up with Barnaby's group research that kids who make a decision for Christ typically make that decision between the ages of five and 13. And I could stop right there and be like, alright, friends, that's it. That's why kids in student ministry is important. But I'm gonna keep going. So another step that I

heard was that has always stuck out to me. Again, confirmed by Barna, is that a kid's worldview is typically pretty formed by the time that they're 13.

Which is crazy to me. So that means that whatever view they hold at 13, they either hold on to or we know that there's people who stray away from that and that kind of thing. But eventually we see some of those people coming back to the things that they knew as a child, that they knew as a 13 year old, and we see that.

A lot as people grow up, as people start families of their own, they try to think back, you know, we want good things for our family. We want good values and morals for our kids. And so as parents, like I know I reach back and I think, OK, what does that look like? What, what was what formed me in order for me to help form my. Children and so it says a lot for the kind of environment that we raise our kids and family and doesn't. And so why would we not want that to

be an environment of a Christ centered church? So in speaking specifically about kids ministry, one of the things that we do is that we walk alongside parents, just like Adam said, we believe that parents are the first teachers. You guys get the most time with your kids, right? And so really what we get to do is we get to walk alongside you and in kids ministry especially. We walk alongside parents to lay biblical foundations and truths, right? So with preschoolers, we get to make them feel safe and loved. And as we rock them, as we play with them, we can start speaking simple truths over them. Things like God made me. God loves me, Jesus wants to be my friend forever. These simple phrases, they start to soak in the minds of even our smallest friends, don't they? We know that their little sponges when they're that age, right? And so speaking those truths like God created me

and God loves me. What a great foundation to start letting when we enter elementary school. We get to engage with our kids curiosity and all the discoveries that they're making about the world, about themselves, about Jesus. They get to learn and hold truths like I can make the right choice or I can treat others the way that I want to be treated, which we see. And then another very big. Important one is that I can trust God no matter what. A lot, a lot happens in our in our day and a lot happens with our kids. Sometimes things that we're not even aware of. So to help them understand that they can trust God no matter what is very important. And so we like to teach things like God never changes. He's the same yesterday, today. We're learning on Wednesday nights right now that we are made to be connected to God, and we do that through learning who God is and learning his character and all of that. We just learned this past week that God

is holy. So God is bigger and stronger
and smarter and wiser and set apart and
perfect. He is perfect, right? Again, So
we can trust a God who who is
set apart. We can trust a God who
is perfect knowing that he loves us even
or especially because we are not perfect,
right? So we want to help them learn
truths like that to connect it to their
everyday lives. So there. So I could say,
alright, I'm done, I'm out. But, but
there's the but there's more. I don't
know about you, but I have tried several
times in my life to be in a million
places at one time. I'm sure I'm the only
one who has ever tried to do that before.
So. My love for elementary
school, I have done that the most as I
volunteered and my ministry career, all
of that kind of thing. So it's always
been really fun to talk and engage and
teach elementary students. The more and
more time I spend with our preschool and
our kindergarten kids, my love for them

grows like crazy. Like I said, we go on lots of journeys. And it's great. You see the workings of their minds, right? And then I've always loved when I've gotten to interact and engage with students in different ways. They are also the ones that make you think, aren't they? They say things that you're like, let's, let's talk about that, right? So I've always loved each age group and for different reasons. However, I most of the time recognize that I cannot be in all the places at one time as much as I would like to write. And so, friends, that's where you guys come in, right? My job would actually be impossible, OK without volunteers that serve faithfully. With our kids and with our students. So those Christ centered adults that I was talking about earlier when I got started, it is because of people like them that we even have a kids and a student ministry. And it's because of people like them that we can take care

of and love the kids and the families here and all. So now and being a very, very transparent. One thing that we are hoping and praying for out of today is to hopefully have some people join us and kids and student ministry, which if you saw your bulletin, you may have seen the volunteer interest card that was so thoughtfully placed in each one.

But which we'll, we'll get to that, don't worry. We'll get to that here in just a little bit. And you heard from Adam, just different things that they do with the students on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. And I'll get to share from a kids kids ministry perspective too. But we want people and we need people to who love Jesus to help point our kids to Jesus.

And I know that because of like I said earlier, many of you guys who are sitting here.

I am doing what I'm doing or I have friends that grew up in church who could

point to very specific people and say how they made an impact on their lives because they chose to serve kids. And so I think sometimes, and I know some of you guys have felt this too, but I think sometimes we step into. Different serving opportunities because we feel like we have something of ourselves to give or we're very passionate about something and we want to contribute or we want to be a part of it. And that can be anything, right? That can be kids, that can be greeting, that can be taking the offering or welcoming people to church. However, the sneaky. Thing about God, and I love this about God, is that he often uses opportunities like that where we think we're going in to make an impact, to make an impact on us, right? We find that we are often changed, sometimes even more than what we thought was even possible. So are you guys ready for my object lesson? Ohh, yeah. Alright. OK. I have with me a can of shaving cream. OK,

it's a new can of shaving cream, so it
is all the way full. I had to. Well,
Mr. Brett tested it for me earlier to
make sure, you know, to make sure I can't
get up here. No shaving cream come out
OK. There's the shaving
cream inside of the can do us any
good. It's OK to participate. Ohh. Thank
you. That's right. It does not. It does
the shaving cream cream inside the can do
anything? No. Very good. OK All right.
I'm going to start filling up this glass
right here with the shaving cream. OK.
All right. There we go. Ohh
no. OK,
there we go. All right.
I'm gonna empty it. We're gonna. We're
gonna maybe. OK, alright. Let's see if
I can do this left-handed. OK, there
we go. All right, look at all
that shaving cream. Who knew there was
so much in that time? Again. OK.
OK. We are seeing, right kind of that
the shaving cream has to come out of

the can in order to be effective,
correct? It does not do us any good
inside the can, right? OK. So all of
the ingredients are mixed together,
they're put right in the can, but still
even with the right ingredients inside
the can. What does it do?
Nothing OK did you know that we are like
this can of shaving cream? Were you guys
aware? Did you come to church today
thinking ohh thank you Ty thinking I am
like a can of shaving cream OK when you
guys go home and talk about the message
be like I didn't know did you know OK
so. Just like this can of
shaving cream, right? God gives us all
the right ingredients, OK, He changes us,
He molds us, He gives us a new
heart. Right when we start a relationship
with Him, He gives us a clean heart.
Shaving cream is very clean, gives us a
clean heart, and He helps grow us. And
use our experiences for His good and for
His glory. But if He changes me and He

molds me, He gives me a new heart, and
then I keep it all to myself. Am I
being very effective? No. Am I
any good that way? No. Friends. We
need to be like the shaving cream,
OK.

I might stop. I think it's running
out. I think it's getting there. OK,
alright. We know we can see, hopefully
that just like the shaving cream, we
are more effective when we express the
love and the change and the gifts
that the Lord has given us and
allowed us to have. So also
we see outside of the can
the shaving cream. What?

It expands, it grows, doesn't it? Can it
expand and grow in this tiny little can?

No, it has to come out, doesn't it?

So again, just like the shaving cream,
when we serve others, when we love others
well, because of the way that the Lord
loves us, the Lord expands us, right? The
Lord grows us. More than we thought.

Did you know the shaving cream was going to expand this much all at one time, outside of the can? If you did, awesome.

If you didn't look at it, it expanded so much. Right? OK, so who knew that we had so much in common with shaving cream? I think that's great. OK.

So again, I could continue to keep talking about why student ministry is important and kids ministry is important, but I also want to step into opportunities that you guys have and to to serve kids.

What I want to like I said, I want to share those opportunities with you, but I never want to stand up here and say we are so desperate for volunteers, Please, please come help us.

I don't want you to hear that at all. While we do need volunteers yes to help run our. Kids in student ministry While we need loving Christ centered adults to step in and help lead our kids, I don't want it to see be

seen as an act of desperate ask, OK?

It is an invitation to step into the things that the Lord is doing within our kids and our student ministry. When you guys join us again, you never know where it's gonna take you. You never know the way that the Lord is gonna expand you. So here's the things that we have. Here's the things. And this is also too, in case you didn't know, like what our kids in student ministry hours look like. I'm going to speak directly for kids, but during a core. Group during the Sunday school hour. We have classes just like you guys do for birth all the way up through 6th grade. We have great, consistent teachers who build relationships with our kids as they help lead them into the understanding of who God is and that his word is still relevant to us today. Because I think it's easy to look at the Bible and be like. Well, this was written a long time ago, so as a 8 year old, how can

I use this? So we have, we have
opportunity for you guys to speak life
into our kids. So I never want to look
at kids ministry as babysitting. I think
sometimes that can come in and be like,
OK, they'll just be over here. When we
get to go have our class, no, that is not
the case. We don't babysit up in here,
OK? We are very intentional and
structured about the time that we have to
make the most of every opportunity to
lead our kids to the Lord, to help
connect them to God, and to connect them
with other people just like you guys do
in your core group classes. During the
service hour, we have extended care for
our preschool, our babies, through our
kindergarteners, again, not babysitting,
another opportunity to engage in age
appropriate activities so that they can
start learning who God is. And we
also just started kids church during
service. We started that in the new
year. So we get to take our kids, they

get to worship with our with us as families and then we get to take them and we get to reinforce Bible story. We get to do more activities. I know some of you again, come join us. We get up and we play games. You get to be active during service. OK. But we also want to focus on Bible skills. We want our kids to learn. Navigate and be comfortable using the Bible, using a physical Bible to help them know how to get around in it so.

And then on Wednesday nights, we have our three-year olds through our 6th graders and we get to learn about how our identity is rooted in God. So we've tackled different themes each month to help them connect with God and learn about our character and learn about his character. So another time to be active and to engage in the things that the Lord has for us. So like I said, we don't ever want to stand here and be like, please come volunteer. And while

sometimes I say please come volunteer,
again, I want you to look at this
to really think through and pray through
an invitation of stepping into kids and
student ministry with us. And that can
look like a lot of different ways. Again,
our our insert that was so thoughtfully
placed in all of our worship guides today
as you are reading through it and praying
through it, If the Lord is leading you or
you might even think the Lord is leading
you in that direction, I would love for
you to fill it out and to hand it
to Adam. Alright, and we would love to.
Talk with you and talk about ways that
either you can be involved, ways that you
can pray for our kids and our student
ministry. And so, yeah,
and if, you know, if kids aren't your
thing, I get it. We need people who kids
are their thing. We need adults, you
know, we need teachers and adult classes
and that kind of thing too. This isn't a
you have to volunteer in kids ministry.

This is also a really think through and pray through the way that. That can serve our church because there are a lot of different ways that can happen as we begin wrapping our time up together. We're going to get out of church early today, so I hope you guys are OK with that. And we are. I'm gonna go ahead and invite the band back up. Like I said, I want you to to really pray through what this could possibly look like for you and in what capacity. There are a lot of great opportunities, not just in kids and students, like I said, but in our church. And we really would love for you guys to be a part of the things. What the Lord is doing here? And lastly, before I pray, sorry I called you up and I'm not ready to pray yet. Before I pray, I just wanna tell you guys thank you. Because Noel, of course, has always been incredibly special to me growing up here. All of that. If I talk too much about that, I might cry. So

Knoll has always been very special to me and one thing that I have always really loved and appreciated. Is how you guys love kids and families. I saw that growing up and I feel like I still see that today. So thank you for the way that you guys support us in whatever way that looks like.

Yeah, I'm gonna pray for us and then we'll go on. Thank you guys so much, dear Lord.

Father, we love you. We are so grateful that you gave us this church body. We're grateful that you have given us the kids and the families that are here, Lord.

Father, help us to be good stewards of the talents and the gifts that you have given us. Help us to reach out and to step into opportunities to serve you and to serve your Kingdom. Father, like I mentioned, whether that's with kids or students, Lord, I pray that you work in each of our hearts to see ways we can be

involved, to say, see ways that we can

encourage or support or pray for.

For kids in the student ministry, Lord,

thank you for the time that you've given

us. Thank you for loving us so much. And

I pray, Father, that everything we do

ultimately brings you glory. We pray this

in your name, Amen.