

5/29/2022

Ever Wonder?

1. Ever Wonder...if you're really saved? **BELIEVE!** And when you **DOUBT**, run to God.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31 (NIV)

"...I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:24 (NIV)

"We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend, and though we badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (GN)

2. Ever Wonder...what's going on with your kids? **A LOT.**

- Find the truth before the truth finds you!
- Kids are less childlike and more childish after pandemic.
- They're exposed to more; but equipped for less, which causes anxiety.
- Lead by example, spiritually and morally. Model strong integrity.
- Set high standards. Enforce logical consequences.
- Phone and computers – check histories, install filters.
- Check in with your kids regularly. How are they, really?

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them..." Psalm 127:3-5 (NIV)

3. Ever Wonder...what's the secret to joy? **TAKE THE FOCUS OFF YOURSELF!**

*"Do everything without complaining or arguing. Then you will be blameless and innocent. You will **be God's children without any faults** among people who are crooked and corrupt. You will shine like stars among them in the world as you hold firmly to the word of life. Then I can brag on the day of Christ that my effort was not wasted and that my work produced results. My life is being poured out as a part of the sacrifice and service I offer to God for your faith. Yet, I am filled with joy, and I share that joy with all of you." Philippians 2:14-17 (GW)*

*"Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! **Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do...**" Philippians 4:4-5 (LB)*

✚ **Focus on Giving instead of Getting.**

*“...There is **more happiness in giving** than in receiving.” Acts 20:35 (GNT)*

“Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly... This will make possible the next step, for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply.”

2 Peter 1:6-7 (LB)

✚ **Focus on Healing not Hurting.**

*“Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so **you must forgive others.**”*

Colossians 3:13 (LB)

“We can be full of joy here and now, even in our trials and troubles... These very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character.” Romans 5:3-4 (PH)

✚ **Focus on God's Power instead of your Problems.**

*“But He [Jesus] said to me, ‘My **grace is sufficient** for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)*

*“When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)*

✚ **Focus on Love instead of Justice.**

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

Keep the Conversation going...

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What doubts trouble you in your faith journey?
2. How can we get involved in helping kids today know Jesus?
3. Describe yourself when you're the most joyful.
4. If you made joy a priority in your life, what changes would you have to make?
5. Read James 1:2-3. Why is important to remain joyful during trials in your life.