

Life Group Lesson

Essentials • Week of July 31

Introduction

At Christ Church, we have six essential core values to which we hold tightly. Utilizing the acronym of C-H-R-I-S-T, the first core value is C – “Children and Students matter to God. Therefore, we will provide with excellence, children and youth ministries so they can know Christ and make Him known to their generation.” The sobering truth is, we are always only one generation away as a culture from experiencing the haunting words written in the book of Judges: “After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things He had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10). For several years now at Christ Church, we have boldly declared: ‘Not on our watch!’ We will do our best with God’s help to teach the next generation to acknowledge the Lord and honor Him for all He has done.

“We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about His power and His mighty wonders” (Psalm 78: 3b-4).

Children and students matter to God. Do they matter to you? We live in a fast-paced world that is broken. Although humankind has achieved much, we are still in a fallen state. All have sinned and fallen short of God’s standard (see Romans 3:23). Any achievement experienced to date is because God has allowed it. “The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him...” (2 Chronicles 16:9). Is your heart fully committed to God in the throes of life? In what or upon whom do you rely as you lead your family? Our professed faith in Christ must be backed up by action if we are going to reach the next generation. Do the children and young people around you see you giving the Lord first place? If we do not teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them *not* to.

Background

No one knows us like our parents. Did you know that God knows you? He

displays His love and glory in the sky and throughout creation; and yet, the Lord cares about every detail of your life. He knows your history, the difficulties you go through, the challenges you face. He understands you. The Lord will never stop loving you. You can safely humble yourself before the Lord in the quiet place, because He will always listen. Although we are made in God’s image, we are not automatically children of God. We must humble ourselves and be born anew—of water and the spirit (John 3:3,5). It’s no wonder Jesus said we must become like little children if we want to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children” (Matthew 19:24). Yet, be assured, Jesus wants you to come to Him. He loves you and has time for you.

Little children trust their parents. And we can certainly trust our heavenly Father. Jesus came to this earth to show us that His Father loves us more than we can fathom (measure or come to understand). Jesus once told a man who was searching for God, for truth: “For God loved the world so much He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him” (John 3:16-17). It is important to Jesus that every individual on the planet come to know God personally. And once we experience friendship with Christ, it is then important to introduce our children (and others around us) to the Lord Jesus. No one outgrows their need for the Savior. Think of it this way: Everyone was a child at some point. Christ came to this earth so that anyone who believes can become a child of God, adopted into God’s family (see John 1:9-13 and 1 John 5:1-5).

Read Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus never stops loving us, but have you stopped loving Jesus? There is a story in the Old Testament about a king who pleased God as a young person, beginning his reign over Judah in a way that honored God. And the LORD blessed him for it. “But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall...” (2 Chronicles 26:16a). As you read the Scripture below, ask yourself and ask the Lord: “Lord, have I become prideful? Do I still love you like a little child, or is my heart in a different place now? Lord, you know me and I believe that you care about me. But I feel distant. Please reveal truth as I humble myself before you like a

little child. Give me a heart to value all people. Give me eyes to see others the way you see them. Lord, give me a genuine desire to help introduce other people, young or old, to you.”

Reading the Text

Read 2 Chronicles 26:3-23

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

In Closing

“Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness. Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

Psalm 145:3-7

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

One Year Bible Readings

July 31: 2 Chronicles 29:1-36, Romans 14:1-23, Psalm 24:1-10, Proverbs 20:12
August 1: 2 Chronicles 30:1-31:21, Romans 15:1-22, Psalm 25:1-15, Proverbs 20:13-15
August 2: 2 Chronicles 32:1-33:13, Romans 15:23-16:9, Psalm 25:16-22, Prov. 20:16-18
August 3: 2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33, Romans 16:10-27, Psalm 26:1-12, Proverbs 20:19
August 4: 2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23, 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, Psalm 27:1-6, Prov. 20:20-21
August 5: Ezra 1:1-2:70, 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5, Psalm 27:7-14, Proverbs 20:22-23
August 6: Ezra 3:1-4:23, 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4, Psalm 28:1-9, Proverbs 20:24-25

Essentials

Text: 2 Chronicles 26:3-23

Plain Truth:

Children and Students Matter to God. Therefore, we will provide with excellence, children and youth ministries so they can know Christ and make Him known to their generation.

1. _____ God above all else and _____ God.
2. Humble yourself before God _____.
3. Leadership is _____ and our _____ has _____.
4. _____ big and value _____.
5. Practice _____ of _____ and _____.

July 31, 2022