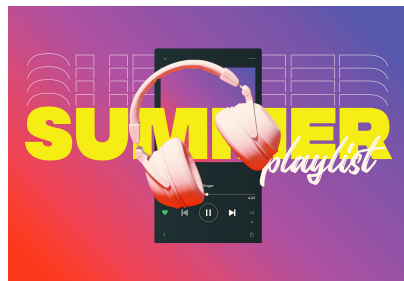


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

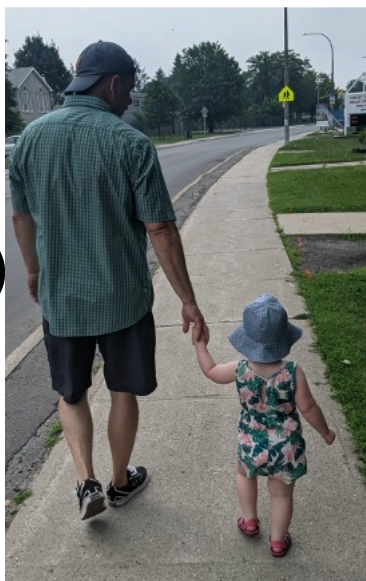
The Key to the Kingdom

With Andrew Hurrell - Board Chair
August 22, 2021



Matthew 18:1-4 About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”² Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them.³ Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.⁴ So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

BIG IDEA: Experience the Kingdom of God right here & now, by being like a child.



Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV) “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Romans 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. This is the Kingdom of God.

#1 – **BE PRESENT** in the moment

Matthew 6:33-34 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

#2 – Appreciate **HIS PRESENCE**

Psalms 16:11 (NLT) You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

Also: Ps 27:4, Ps 73:28 and Ps 95:2

The most holy and important practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God - that is, every moment to take great pleasure that God is with you.

-Brother Lawrence

#3 – Live with **PASSION**

2 Samuel 6:14-15 And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment.¹⁵ So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.

Rev 7:10-11 And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God.

Mark 8:27-29 Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”²⁸ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.”²⁹ Then he asked them, “**But who do you say I am?**”



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Key to the Kingdom
#5 of 7 - August 22, 2021

Look Back

1. What's one thing you are celebrating in response to last week's message?

Look Up - Dig Deeper

2. What stood out to you from this week's message?
3. List some childlike qualities then list the opposites of each one. For each of the pairs you listed, reflect on where you are on the spectrum of childlike vs not.
4. Review Sequoia vision statement. Consider how YOU are experiencing the Kingdom of God? What about the people around you, where you LIVE/WORK/PLAY/GO, how are you helping others experience this?

Look Forward - Training Exercise

5. REVIEW: Reflect on the qualities of 'being like a child' with God. (See above)
6. DO IT NOW: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you personally, where you are the opposite of childlike. Pray for Holy Spirit to guide you in rediscovering the wonder, awe and presence of a child. One way to do this:
 - **Slow** down: quiet yourself, take a few breaths.
 - **Focus** your attention on God: think about HIS attributes, list them in your head or out loud if you are with a group.
 - **Talk** to him: e.g. "Dear God, show me where I can experience your kingdom by being more like a child with you, this week".
 - **Wait**: Pay attention to what you 'hear' from God. Take as long as you can to listen for his prompting.
 - **Thank** him: Pray your thanks for this word and ask for his help in this area in the coming days.
7. COMMIT: Share this with someone in your group. Pray for each other and be ready to check-in next time to see how God blesses you.



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