



Parenting Below The Surface

Week of July 17, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 10:13-16

The way Jesus wants us to influence the next generation is very different than how the world is doing it. The world's version of parenting means that children are seen and not heard. The world wants the kids to be tied to "stuff" and to feel like everything is fair. Parents want to control their kid's destinies as if they are in charge. But Jesus says, "Let the children come unto me." He has a very easy approach to children. Whether you have children or not, you have an opportunity to impact the next generation for Jesus. He calls us to touch and bless the children. He wants us to love them and lead them like he loves and leads us. If that's what needs to happen, what needs to change in your life?

Pray

Father, you have given me children to care for, and you have given me all I need to raise them in your love. Teach me where I need to parent more like you and help me raise the next generation to love you passionately. Keep my eyes open to every opportunity you give me to parent below the surface.

Getting Started

- What was your favorite game to play as a child?
- Who are the children in your life that need to be touched and blessed? (Think wider than just your family.)

Listening Deeply

*Although this week's discussion is on parenting, this lesson still applies to you if you don't have children of your own. We all have an impact on the next generation, and because God's word does not come back void (Isaiah 55:11), there is something here for you. Ask God to speak to you in a special way about how you can apply these discussion questions to make a difference for the next generation.

1. The world's version of parenting is different than the way Jesus wants us to impact the next generation. How can you tell the difference between worldly and godly parenting?
2. What are some examples of children being "seen and not heard" or "one size fits all" parenting?
3. Do you ever find yourself overly worried or controlling over your child's destiny? Share an example. Does this need to change?
4. Read Mark 10:16. Jesus wants us to love children through touch. What are some ways you can lovingly touch your child?
5. Jesus placed his hands on the heads of the children and blessed them. How can you/do you bless your children?
6. The goal of parenting is to get your children ready to leave and make an impact on the world for Jesus. Share some ways you can do (or are doing) that for your children.

Living Wide in Jesus

Surface parenting is easier than parenting below the surface. Surface parenting is when you can just hand your kids the newest gadgets and get back to your own life. Parenting below the surface takes effort. You have to get to know your child as an individual and then touch them in ways that are meaningful and impactful. In the focus verse, Jesus shows us how important it is to bless our children. We do that through our examples, by experiences, and leading them to know and love the Lord. This week think about this: ***What do you need to change in your life to make a better impact for the next generation? *Who is the next generation in your life? *How can you better reach them?**