

July 15, 2018

sermon notes

PARENTING GOD'S WAY

Today we are celebrating our Shipwrecked kids' camp finale. It has been an incredible week of pouring into children. At Harvest, blessing kids is very important to us, because it was very important to Jesus.

One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these."

Matthew 19:13-14 MSG

"Don't you see that children are God's best gift? the fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children! Your enemies don't stand a chance against you; you'll sweep them right off your doorstep."

Psalms 127:3-5 (MSG)

Parenting is a task that God has given us. As difficult as it sometimes seems, we know that, because family is God's idea, He is here to help us be the best parents we can be to our children. Today we are going to look at 5 principles of parenting based on the story of the two sons in Luke 15:12-22.

1. Attention

2. Authority

3. Affection

4. Affirmation

5. Apologize

Consider and discuss

- Share what you learned about attention, authority or affection from the way you were parented. Which of these areas are you really good at and why? Which of these areas needs the most work and why?
- We learned that one aspect of authority is applying consequences when our children fail to do what we asked them to do. Talk about the most effective consequences that your parents used on you and how you apply those to your children.
- Rejection is the biggest problem in this country today and the opposite of rejection is *affirmation*. Discuss ways you affirm or encourage your children when they are experiencing the sting of rejection.

Prayer Focus

Ask God to give you the wisdom to know which area of parenting you need to give the most attention. Pray that God would help you steward the gift of your children well, and thank Him for being an attentive, authoritative, affectionate Father. Ask Him to protect and bless your children, and pray that they would have favour in their lives and be used to glorify God. Be sure to pray with your kids every day!

Next Step

Identify a specific way that you want to grow as a parent during this season of your life. Identify someone in your small group or community who is strong in that area of parenting, and make plans to meet with that person. Begin to take small, intentional steps to implement that aspect of parenting into your family.