

Life Group / Reflection Question

We live in a child-centered age: a kindergarchy. We assume our children's total well being depends on us and anxiously strive to live up to the "myth of the perfect parent." This week we learned with a good dose of prayer, a shot of biblical redirection, and a little common sense, we can avoid freaking out about our children and tackle the busyness beast."

Intro:

- *What points or scriptures from this week's Sermon were meaningful for you personally?*

Discussion:

- **Read Psalm 127:1** *What is this verse saying concerning how we parent our children?*
- *Have you ever assumed that your children's failures were almost certainly your fault for not doing enough? What cultural and spiritual forces have contributed to this?*
- *What specific parental pressures have you felt raising your children? Where did these pressures come from? Do you see any negative impact? If you are not yet a parent, how does this week's topic affect the way you think about being a parent in the future?*
- *How would you grade your parents in the way they raised you? How do you think your children would grade you? What might be one thing they wish was different?*
- *Looking at the 4 expectations God has for parents in scripture. Which ones do you feel you do well? Which ones would you like to do better?*
- *We will parent imperfectly, our children will make their own choices, and God will mysteriously and wonderfully use it all to advance his kingdom. How could this truth set us free to parent with a realistic yet radiant hope?*

Take Away: *What is one thing you will put into practice as a result of what you have learned?*



Sunday October 11th, 2015

"A Cruel Kindergarchy"

Week #5

Wave Church SD

Crazy Busy
“A Cruel Kindergarchy”
Week #5

Diagnosis #4 I need to stop freaking out about my kids

Kindergarchy: Rule by Children

- *The State or Phenomenon of children dominating, particularly in the context of a child’s needs, wishes, and preferences being of equal or greater status than those of adults.*

2 Myths about Parenting:

- **My child’s success and happiness depends totally on me.**

Psalm 127:1 *Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.*

- **I am the best or the worst parent in the world**

Matthew 6:33 ³³ *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* ³⁴ *“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

What does God say I am to do as a parent?

Teach your children about God

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ⁴ *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and*

when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Discipline your children

Proverbs 23:13 (NLT) *13 Don’t fail to discipline your children. The rod of punishment won’t kill them. 14 Physical discipline may well save them from death.*

Proverbs 13:24 (ESV) *Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.*

Hebrews 12:7-11 ⁷ *It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

Do not to exasperate your children

Ephesians 6:4 ⁴ *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Colossians 3:21 ²¹ *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Be Thankful for your children

Ps. 127:3-5 (The Message) *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.*