

Message Notes

Children of Grace

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25

May 14, 2006

Message Outline

Children of Grace

Deuteronomy 6:1-19, 20-25

May 14, 2006

I. Our DELIGHT in the Children of Grace (WHY?)

1. Children teach us that God is faithful.
2. Children remind us that God is good.
3. Children remind us that we are mortal.
4. Children serve as examples of faith.
5. Children inspire hope.
6. They remind us of our dependence on God's grace.
7. They keep us praying.
8. They keep us young.
9. They remind us of the joy of life.
10. Children remind us of our spiritual responsibility and challenge us to articulate/explain our faith.

II. Our DESIRE for the Children of Grace (WHAT?)

- A. We desire that our children know and fear THE WHOLE OF WHO GOD IS. (Deut. 6:2, Ps. 78:6 -7)
- B. We desire that our children love God and neighbor with the WHOLE OF WHO THEY ARE. (Deut. 6:5, Ps. 78:7)
- C. We desire that our children live THE WHOLE OF THEIR LIVES under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (Deut. 6:16-25, Ps. 78:8)
- D. We desire that our children would worship God with THE WHOLE NUCLEAR FAMILY AND THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY. (Deut. 6:4, Ps. 78:4)

III. Our DILIGENCE with the Children of Grace (HOW?)

- A. We strive to partner with and equip parents who take responsibility for the Biblical instruction and nurture of their children.
- B. We strive to provide safe environments and passionate teachers/staff who love children.
- C. We strive to teach children the Bible in engaging ways with the goal of instruction, not entertainment.
- D. We strive to reach out to, welcome and include children into the church's life, practice and fellowship.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

Children of Grace

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25

May 14, 2006

1. Read all of Deuteronomy 6 in a sitting. Which parts, if any, are you familiar with or have you heard before? What does Jesus say about this passage in Matthew 22:34-40? Circle or mark all the references to children or grandchildren in this passage?
2. What does it mean to “fear the Lord” in Deuteronomy 6:2 and 24? What does it mean to “love the Lord” in Deuteronomy 6:5? Are fear and love mutually compatible?
3. How does Deuteronomy 6 support this statement. . . . *“The whole church is to be concerned that the whole child know/fear/love the whole of God in the context of the whole of life.”?*
4. Count the generations mentioned in Psalm 78:1-8. What does 78:7 say is the purpose of Biblical instruction? Is it morality?
5. Whose responsibility is the Biblical instruction and nurture of children? Is it the church’s or parent’s responsibility? Where in the outline is this clearly stated? How does Deuteronomy 6 illustrate this? Why is this so hard in today’s world? Why are we doing such a poor job at this clear mandate?

Growth Group Application Questions

Children of Grace

Deuteronomy 6:1-19, 20-25

May 14, 2006

1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Without looking at the outline, what are some of benefits of children in the life of a church? How many of the 10 can you remember? How does our culture at large view children? What evidence do you see that churches don’t always see/value children in their church life? What do you experience here at Grace?
3. On the other side, can a church cater too much to children? Compare and contrast the difference between engagingly teaching children and entertaining children. Why is the former so challenging and why is the latter such a temptation? What are ways we can welcome children in our church without catering to them to the point of doing harm? How are we doing at this important but delicate task?
4. Look carefully at the DILIGENCE section of the outline. Draw some connections between our DESIRE for children and our DILIGENCE with children. How does our DESIRE drive our DILIGENCE?
5. Why is children’s ministry so valuable and such a priority in light of the text/message this week? Do you have any ideas for how we can value and welcome children here at Grace in Biblically appropriate ways? Share those ideas with the group and send them on to our ministry staff.