

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Warm Up

Feel free to use these as you try to help your group feel comfortable talking

1. How would you describe yourself as a child? Perfect angel? "Handful"? Little devil?
2. Have you ever contributed to or been a part of a time capsule? What did you include?
 - a. What would you include in a capsule your children were to open in 20 years?
3. Name a significant adult who made a positive impact on you as a child. In what way?

Scripture

Read the following passages of Scripture (include any children present, *especially today*)

1. Matthew 18:1-6
2. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
3. Matthew 19:14

Explore

1. What question did the disciples ask of Jesus? (18:1)
 - a. Before he answered, what did Jesus do? (18:2)
 - b. What answer did he offer them? (18:4)
2. What warning did Jesus then offer them? (18:6)
3. To whom were Moses' words addressed in Deut 6:4?
4. What was the audience to do first with these commandments? (6:6)
 - a. Once on their heart, what were the people instructed to do with them? (6:7)
 - i. What examples for accomplishing this were given? (6:7-9)
5. What specific instruction and reason for the instruction did Jesus give in Mat 19:14?

Discover

1. Jesus didn't tell his disciples NOT to pursue being great in the kingdom of Heaven, but he certainly caught them off guard. What made his answer so shocking?
2. How do you feel about the responsibility Jesus placed on those who influence children?
 - a. What do you think of Jesus' consequences for failing in this task?
 - b. Does this passage prompt renewed action/attitude on your part? Should it?
3. Moses' words in Deuteronomy were to the now grown children of those who had left Egypt. Do you think these words had any kind of special meaning to them? Why?
4. Israel as a nation was directed to kind of hold families accountable to God's standard. Who is our modern day equivalent in this task?
5. For your family, are these daily "God talking point" kind of things easy and natural?
 - a. What would help make them more likely?
 - b. What specific things block them and make them more difficult?
 - c. What could you do as a parent to place a higher value on family spiritual growth?
6. What are some things our small group can do to help parents in this task?