

Learning from the Perfect Father
Series: Investing in Kids and Future Generations
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August 12, 2018

As We Get Started:

- No matter what our situation is regarding our own children, each of us can influence kids that God brings across our paths.
- As a church, we want to help kids be “winning kids.” We can help them by investing in them. Oakridge has a history of ministry to children. Everyone, from kids, to singles, to the elderly, matter.
- We are not looking to make anyone feel guilty or feel that they have failed in their parenting. Kids grow up and make decisions. Some of you have invested in other kids who broke our heart.

Lessons From The Perfect Father

Kids are a gift from God - Ps. 127:3-5

- Children are a “heritage” (gift) from the Lord (**vs. 3**).
- God brings children into our lives so we can influence and teach them. They are not a nuisance, distraction, or inconvenience.
- When kids are involved, life changes.

We are to love as God loves

1) We love kids when we show concern for their welfare, helping them be what God wants them to be.

- **Jn. 3:16-17** tells us Jesus came into the world to save it. God is concerned for us. He shows love, grace, patience, mercy.
- **Practical:** Loving kids means investing in them. We take time to involve ourselves in their lives.

2) Affirm our unconditional love for kids.

- **Rom. 8:35-39** tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. God’s love is unconditional. See **Rom. 5:8** and **Jn. 3**.
- Children need to know that they are loved with no strings attached. Even when they break our hearts, they need to know we still love them. We cannot show favoritism.
- **Practical:** Read **1 Cor. 13:4-7** and take each of those words and write down a way to practice them toward children.

3) Practice forgiveness

- God is a forgiving God (**Eph. 1:7**). **Eph. 4:30-32** talks about the need to forgive, to guard against bitterness.
- There are some adults who think asking for forgiveness is a sign of weakness. It’s not. God tells us to forgive and to seek forgiveness.

- The word “forgiveness” in **Eph. 4:32** means “to let go a debt.” Can we forgive our children? Even when we have to discipline them for something, do we extend love, grace, and forgiveness?
- **Practical:** Model forgiveness. Ask for it when needed. We may have adult kids we need to forgive or to ask forgiveness from.

We need to model truth to kids because God is Truth

- When we speak of God as truth, there are a couple of things to note. **One**, it means that God is reliable (**Num. 23:19; Jn. 14:1-2**).
- **Two**, it means God knows things as they are. He is the beginning of knowledge and makes it available to us. He is the truth in everything (morals, religion, science, history, etc.).

1) Teach kids a Biblical worldview

- Everyone has a worldview. A worldview is what directs our lives.
- **Deut. 6:4-7** offers good insights for teaching about God.
- **Vs. 4** is known as the “Shema.” This was the basic confession of faith in Judaism. **Vs. 5** is noted by Christ in **Mt. 22:34-40**.
- **Vs. 7** says we are to teach our kids with diligence. The phrase “teach them diligently” has the idea of “sharpening.” We do that by helping kids be prepared for life.
- We are to instruct children in God’s Word and God’s ways. We do life together (**Deut. 6:7-9**), taking opportunities to teach.
- **Practical:** Talk to kids about creation when looking at the stars. When dealing with something at school, help them with Biblical insights on the situation. Show them how to care

2) Show kids that truth is a part of who we are

- Model integrity. Don’t lie. What we speak matters (**Eph. 4:29**).

3) Keep our word

- When we make promises, keep them. See **Mt. 5:33-37**.