

## MONDAY 04.13.26 - Luke 18:15-17

Children are a valuable item. Families, communities and churches invest mightily in them. No wonder, they are the future. Things go well and people enjoy what they do, yet they are concerned about what will happen to their events and activities and legacies after them. Children are the answer to all this. Yet today's verses show that as adults were considering physical health and freedom from demons, there seemed to be no place for infants and little children. They were being kept away from Jesus.

Jesus himself instructed the disciples to let them come to Him. Two reasons were given to allow this. Here we learn that their kind, gentle, trusting, believing and humble natures demonstrate what we ourselves need to be good citizens of the Kingdom. In Matthew 18:10, He adds that "their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." What do ours see? Oh to be like them.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 04.14.26 - Colossians 3:20

<sup>20</sup>Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

If we take today's scripture out of context it seems like a very black and white statement. Don't get me wrong, I believe that God is calling children to obey their parents even if they do not have the best of parents, unless doing so would violate one of God's principles. However, when we look at this verse in context, we see that it is the responsibility of the parents, particularly the father, to create an atmosphere where obedience can flourish. Just before this verse husbands are instructed to love their wives. Directly following it they are instructed to not aggravate their children. I believe that if the marriage and the family are God honoring that there will be an environment in which the desire for children to be obedient is going to significantly increase. So, yes children obey your parents, but mom and dad don't forget the role you play in this as well.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 04.15.26 - Ephesians 6:4

Pastor R. Kent Hughes says that he learned that there are two ways to break a horse. One is a progressive method. You start with a halter and then a bit and then a blanket and then a saddle. Done correctly, this can produce a full-spirited, obedient horse. However, there's another way to break a horse, and it's sometimes used with difficult horses. You take a 2x4 and knock the horse to its knees. A horse can be tamed that way—but at great cost because you wind up with a spiritless animal. The animal will be obedient but will never be what it could have been.

Children are like that. They can be embittered by their parents to the point that they become discouraged, and the results are painful. That's why Paul encourages us to bring up our children "in the training and instruction of the Lord."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 04.16.26- Deuteronomy 6:6-9

<sup>6</sup>These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup>Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The story is told of a Muslim turned Christian living in America who noticed a dramatic difference in the way Christians live their lives compared to Muslims.

He had to admit that one day Muslims will prevail over America. To illustrate he drew two large circles: each with a dot in the middle.

To the Muslim, the dot represented his life, and the entire circle was his faith. He was but a dot, but that dot was consumed by his faith which permeated all he did and how he lived each minute.

To the Christian the dot represented their faith, which was but a small part of his entire life. His life and how he lived it was far more important, and his faith had little impact on how he lived his life.

Those observations and the above scripture should cause each of us to pause and ask: How much of my life have I yielded to Christ and how should we train our children and grandchildren?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 04.17.26 - Psalm 127

At first glance, today's reading seems to cover two very different realities: building a house and the blessing of children. But context is key. Psalm 126 celebrates God's restoration of His people, while Psalm 128 describes life in the home. Psalm 127 serves as the bridge between the two, with a clear message that theologian Abraham Kuruvilla summarizes this way: "Don't be futile—be utile!"

We might not use the word "utile" often, but its meaning is clear: be useful, have an effect. Psalm 127 reminds us that true usefulness—whether building a house or a home—doesn't come from our effort alone, but from dependence on God. It's easy to go full throttle according to our own ideas, only to look back and realize it was all done in vain. How much better to look back knowing we sought God's guidance and trusted Him to establish our work along the way.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## **E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES**

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - 6:30pm. Begins April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **“God of the Ordinary”, A Study in the Book of Ruth Led by Barry Wills, Rm B8-10**

This is a 6 session study by Alistair Begg. God still protects His people and accomplishes His purposes. Through all of life’s circumstances, we discover His loving hand at work.

THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY- 9:00am

### **“In View of God’s Mercies”, by: Courtney Doctor Led by Brenda Ross; Rm 2**

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level  
NURSERY (through Age 3) \*9:40AM ONLY  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings
- LOCATION: B8-10 - Dave Heineman- began Mar. 1  
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE:**  
**Matthew 14-28**  
Gaining a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day.
- LOCATION: B11 - Dave Delcamp - began Mar. 1  
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:**  
**Understanding the Character of God**  
Through the revelation of Scripture—and His ultimate revelation through Jesus Christ—we can see exactly who God is.


SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

## **Ephesians 6:1-3 A Command For Kids**

- As a child, you are to \_\_\_\_\_ your parents (v 1)
  - Meaning
    - The Greek word *hupacouo* means “to hear under”— to comply with what you’ve been told.
  - Motivation
    - S\_\_\_\_\_
    - This level revolves around personal-centered desires. It’s based on pain and pleasure.
    - S\_\_\_\_\_
    - It revolves around reciprocal-centered desires. It’s based on a relationship that has been established.
    - S\_\_\_\_\_
    - This motivation revolves around God-centered desires. It’s based on love for the Lord and a desire to please Him.
- As an adult, you are to \_\_\_\_\_ your parents (vv 2-3)
  - It can be demonstrated by ...
  - A\_\_\_\_\_
  - Their e\_\_\_\_\_
  - Their s\_\_\_\_\_
  - A\_\_\_\_\_
  - C\_\_\_\_\_
  - C\_\_\_\_\_

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 13 - April 17

### INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

### OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from, April 12<sup>th</sup>, “A Command for Kids”. Wednesday through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 19<sup>th</sup>, “Parental Guidance Required”.

### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children.  
Ephesians 5:1