

Let the Children Come

Well, I couldn't be more pleased to bring today's lesson. Last Sunday, one of you patiently waited for me to finish a discussion with someone in the cafeteria. I can't tell you how encouraged I was when I turned around to speak with Grey, and he asked if I would bring a lesson on the role of children in the church.

"Out of the mouths of babes." Grey, you have a tender heart. You truly encouraged me, my friend.

How many kiddos his age tune out during a Sunday sermon? Grey's one of those kids that could have hung in there during a long assemble like we read about in **Nehemiah 8:1–3**, "And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law."

Let me tell you what the children do for the body of Christ:

- **You give hope.**

- Y'all are so good when you sit still and listen. You're an excellent example for those who are younger than you. Their moms and dads can say, "Hey, look at how the big kids are sitting still and listening! Truly!"
- Tell them how much you enjoy being with one another and worshipping God. Encourage them to participate with the body.
- We know you don't have a choice, but that doesn't keep us from being encouraged when we see you. Jack Kirkland mentioned how pleased he and Linda were when they first visited. Why? Thankfully, the congregation honored God and made them feel like honored guests, but they were encouraged to see many young people. It was evidence of life and a possible future.

- **You bring zeal.**

- Matthew 21:14–16 *And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to Him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise'?"*
- *Some of the most beautiful sounds we hear are your sweet voices singing out loud. Truly. You make worship more meaningful and powerful.*
- **Jesus said you set the bar.**

- Matthew 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- Mark 10:13-16 And they were bringing children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.
- You remind us of purity, humility, and trust. You're not as judgmental as we adults can be. You don't see others like we see others. You seek to please your parents, and you can think, say, and do the sweetest things.
- **Be thankful for your parents.**
 - 2 Timothy 3:15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - Luke 2:49-52 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
 - Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."