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What Can We Learn From Kids?

Mark 10:15: (NASB) *Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.*

Summer vacation, graduation and the long lazy days of summer. For many, this is a time to spend more time with family - the question is do we as adults ever take time to observe and learn from the kids in and around our lives? What do they teach us about life? About choices? Innocence? Ourselves? Jesus' own words indicate that we are to become like children to gain entrance to the kingdom! What does that mean? Stay with us as we open up what promises to be an informative and delightful conversation about children and the incredible lessons we can learn from them!

Our First Kid Lesson: JOY

Obviously, we find joy when we look up towards our Heavenly Father. **Psalms 67:1-4:** But sometimes it is easy for us as adults to lose our focus. In such cases, we can regain that focus and perspective by looking down - at the children around us - to find the strength to look up. Children can be inspiring.

Kids say the darndest things - Introduction, *Bill Cosby on Art Linkletter*

- *People tuned in to Art Linkletter's House Party from 1952 to 1970. The show ended with interviews with kids. Over the years, he interviewed more than 20,000!*
- *The kids had one thing in common...they all said the darndest things!*

Kids tell you about the world in a way we can't tell ourselves. This can give us a very joyful perspective. **Psalms 16:11:** As a Christian, our joy should be gained by worship of our Father. We need to extend that by having an appreciation for that which He created. The process of life is one of those things. **Proverbs 23:23-26:** The focus is on looking towards the Father. We as children can make our parents rejoice.

Bible Convention kids - What are you thankful for? *Jeff Mezera*



- *I'm thankful for my mom and dad and baby sister.*
- *I'm thankful for my mom and dad and everything God made, and apples and houses.*

Nehemiah 8:10: This was when they were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Israel had been in a sinful state and had gotten away from the important things of life. Nehemiah encouraged them. Children have joy in the moment in which they live.

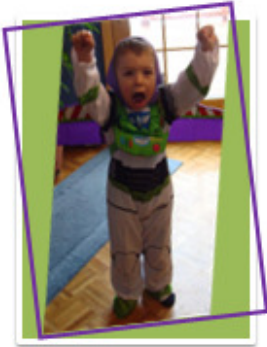
Children are not so much a "gift" but an "heirloom," or "heritage." God entrusts us to care for them and prepare them to make an impact in the world. We have a Godly responsibility towards our children.

Our Second Kid Lesson: TRUST

Proverbs 3:5-6: For adults, trust can be a tricky thing. We have all had enough experiences to rouse suspicion at times. This can be a good or a bad thing, depending on how we apply it. To be able to truly trust is to open the door to be able to truly experience inner peace in our lives.

Kids Say the Darndest Things - Actor and Artist, *Art Linkletter*

- *Kid: I want to be an actor and an artist.*
Linkletter: Say, "Art Linkletter" like you are mad!
Kid: "Art Linkletter like you're mad!"





Kids don't read anything into what they hear - they hear it, they trust it and they respond accordingly! Are we that way with God? Psalms 18:1-3:

Our trust in God should be traceable all the way back to our own beginnings: Psalms 71:1-6: We need to develop childlike trust, knowing that God will take care of us. We need to be trustworthy to our own children.

 **Why can't parents be good friends to their kids, Ishafoundation.com**

- *Get off your pedestal. Get down and be a friend.*
- *You should be the first person they share with. You are the safety net of the child.*

Be approachable so that your children can talk to you and find their security in you. God is that way. He is so much bigger than we can fathom, but He is approachable to us.

Psalms 37:3-8: Here is what trust is made of:



Our Third Kid Lesson: HONESTY

Psalms 40:1-4: Honesty is built directly upon trust. Children have this naturally. Let us learn this lesson from children.

 **Kids Say the Darndest Things - Catholic Baptist, [Art Linkletter](http://ArtLinkletter)**


- *Linkletter: Who is the boss in your house, your mother or your dad?*
Kid: Both of them.
Linkletter: Hey, you're a diplomat, aren't you?
Kid: No, I'm a Catholic Baptist.

Kids respond to what is around them with what they know without hesitation - now that is honesty!

Integrity cannot be put on like a jacket on a chilly day, rather it must be cultivated from deep within one's own heart and mind and become indistinguishable from one's own character.

Romans 12:9-12: Focus on the right things and be devoted to them. Romans 12:17

Peer pressure is integrity's number one enemy.

 **Peer Pressure - Leave proud of yourself, ILikeWeylie - youtube.com**

- *After high school, you are on your own. The groups separate.*
- *You want to leave high school or leave anything in life proud of yourself. You don't want to leave knowing that you were only a follower to fit in.*
- *Remember when you are getting pressured it doesn't make you look any better if you are just falling into it. You have to know when to say, "I don't want to."*

Children need models much more than they need critics.

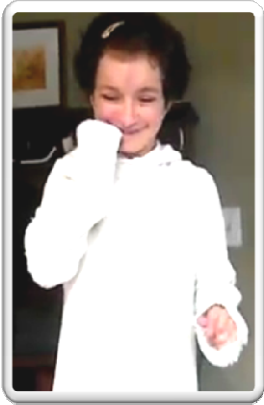
Peer pressure does not only apply to kids: Galatians 2:11-14

Philippians 4:8: Focus is what is higher than us.



Our 4th Kid Lesson: GRACE & INNOCENCE

Next we have some special guests who have had some amazing experiences regarding their own children. Craig and Megan Kerber are parents of three (ages 13, 11, and 3) with some amazing experiences to tell us about.



The story of Grace as told by her parents: Although she was born without apparent problems, it soon was apparent that she had trouble feeding. One side of her nose was blocked with bone and she needed rigid plastic tubes inserted for six weeks so that the bones wouldn't grow back again that came out her nose; this involved lots of nosebleeds and pain. We couldn't hold her, she couldn't lay in bed because the tubes would be bumped; after six weeks they took the tubes out but eventually the bone grew back again. A different doctor told us that the original tubes were not appropriate and then used soft tubes and the situation was under control. This was a hard, stressful experience but the Lord gave many helps along the way.

Within the first year of her life, it was discovered she had a heart murmur as well that eventually went away on its own. Grace was a "failure to thrive" baby who wasn't gaining any weight. She was developmentally delayed, extremely farsighted with fungal infections and high fevers. She was misdiagnosed with severe hearing loss and had to be fitted with hearing aids which caused more problems with brain damage. There was a lot of anxiety in the first year.

Grace was the perfect name for her. God overcompensated by giving Grace extraordinary joy even in the context of these experiences.

Kids Say the Darndest Things - Praying Pilot, Art Linkletter

- Linkletter: What do you think you'll be when you grow up?

Kid: A busdriver or a pilot.

Linkletter: Suppose you were a pilot on a big airplane and suddenly all four engines stopped. What would you say?

Kid: Our Father Who art in heaven...

The child goes right to his source of strength and comfort! Romans 3:24: God's grace gives us that strength. Theme Text: Mark 10:15

Our 5th kid lesson: FAITH

Grace has a rare chromosomal abnormality - so rare that no other case was known until her own brother was born. The doctors did not know what to hope for her future. There is no pathway to lead the way medically, so we really had to rely on the Lord for that path. She is non-verbal and can only do a few signs. Although she is 11, her fine motor skills are still at a pre-school level. Communication is very difficult and she has extreme anxiety and insomnia, but she has a lot of happiness and sweetness as well.

You can "meet" Gracie by viewing her dancing on a youtube video via Christian Questions' Facebook account or through our blog: <http://blog.christianquestions.net/>

Kids Say the Darndest Things - Wine and Wedding, Art Linkletter

- Linkletter: What's your favorite Bible story?

Kid: About the wine.

Linkletter: Where?

Kid: When Jesus went to the wedding.

Linkletter: How did he make the wine?

Kid: Out of water.

Linkletter: What do we learn from this story?

Kid: The more wine you get, the better the wedding is.



Kids draw logical conclusions from what they see and hear.



Grace has a lot of unpredictable meltdowns and things become overwhelming to her. When she was younger, there was nothing we could do to get her to come out of a fit. Now she understands more and can be talked out of a meltdown. We have learned humility through this.

A great example of faith under construction: Mark 9:20-25

It important that people pray for us and that we pray for others. To be able to deal with situations as they come up on a daily basis, to have the strength to get through them...we really rely on the Lord and look for His leading.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13: This scripture promises a way of escape to endure the difficulty and the challenge of the issue. By faith, God gives the Kerbers the strength to deal with their challenges.

Our Sixth Kid Lesson: COURAGE

The chances of having a second special needs child were unknown. Matthew was born and within two weeks, we found out he had the same chromosomal abnormality that Grace has. At first it was very overwhelming but we were able to take things one day at a time. The Lord's mercy and love have been shown in all the overrulings. Matthew's first year was so much easier than Grace's and that was such a blessing. The Lord knew we couldn't go through a year like that again!

 **Kids Say the Darndest Things - Punishing Adam and Eve, Art Linkletter**

- *Linkletter: How did God punish Eve?*

Kid: Well, he made Adam sit down and read the Bible and write the Bible.

Linkletter: But what did he do with Eve?

Kid: He made Eve a housewife.

Psalms 71:5: For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.

With Grace, many things happened that shouldn't have along the lines of misdiagnosis and that made things much harder. Matthew had smaller issues that allowed him to be happier. Something I learned since having Matthew was with Grace I had a harder time trusting in the Lord. Matthew's recent seizures were scary but it was easier to give all to the Lord when we found out he has epilepsy. The Lord has brought us through all of these experiences and we have really been able to grow through them. The Lord really does give peace.

The only way to cope is reliance on God and they can now draw valuable lessons from the children.

A caller outlined three lessons she has learned from having a child with developmental issues:

1. An understanding of other parents going through similar situations;
2. Not being judgmental when you see children throwing a tantrum - you never know why it is happening.
3. When something happens to you, don't ask "Why me?" Ask instead, "Why NOT me?" The lessons you learn can be very great from the experience and can help you in life.

The Lord knows what is best for us and won't give us what we can't handle.

To live this next text takes courage - built on faith, which is built on grace, which is built on an honest heart, which is built on trust which is built on the joy of the Lord! Philippians 4:4-7: Children teach of courage in a lot of different ways. Life is difficult but blessed. Let's approach life in that way.

*So what can we learn from kids?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*