

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:



Obviously, we find joy when we look up towards our Heavenly Father:

Psalms 67:1-4: (NASB) ¹God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us— Selah. ²That Your way may be known on the earth, your salvation among all nations. ³Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth. Selah.

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: (NASB) *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

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: (NASB) ²³*Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding.* ²⁴*The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.* ²⁵*Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.* ²⁶*Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways.*

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: (NASB) *Then he said to them, Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

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.



"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million." -Walt Streightiff

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:



Proverbs 3:5-6: (NASB) ⁵*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

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: (NASB) ¹*I love You, O LORD, my strength. ²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. ³I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.*

Our trust in God should be traceable all the way back to our own beginnings:

Psalms 71:1-6: (NASB) ¹*In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed. ²In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; Incline Your ear to me and save me. ³Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come; You have given commandment to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress. ⁴Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man, ⁵For You are my hope; O Lord GOD, You are my confidence from my youth. ⁶By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; My praise is continually of You.*

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: (NASB) ³Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. ⁴Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He will do it. ⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday. ⁷Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ⁸Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.

Here is what trust is made of:

The graphic is titled "Recipe For: TRUST" in a serif font, with "TRUST" in a larger, blue, outlined font. To the left is an illustration of a kitchen utensil holder containing a whisk, a rolling pin, and a wooden spoon tied with a blue ribbon. Below the title, four ingredients are listed on a lined background: "Delight - Verse 4", "Commit - Verse 5", "Rest - Verse 7", and "Cease from Anger! - Verse 8".

Our Third Kid Lesson:



Psalms 40:1-4: (NASB) ¹I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. ²He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise



to our God; Many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD. ⁴How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.

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

- *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: (NASB) ⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer...

Focus on the right things and be devoted to them.

Romans 12:17: (NASB) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

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: (NASB) ¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. ¹³The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?

Philippians 4:8: (NASB) Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Focus is what is higher than us.

Our First Kid Lesson: Joy! We as adults can regain our joy, focus, and perspective by looking down - at the children around us - to find the strength to look up.

Our Second Kid Lesson: Trust! To be able to truly trust is to open the door to be able to experience inner peace in our lives. Kids don't read anything into what they hear - they hear it, they trust it, and they respond accordingly!

Our Third Kid Lesson: 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. Peer pressure is integrity's number one enemy.

Our 4th Kid Lesson:

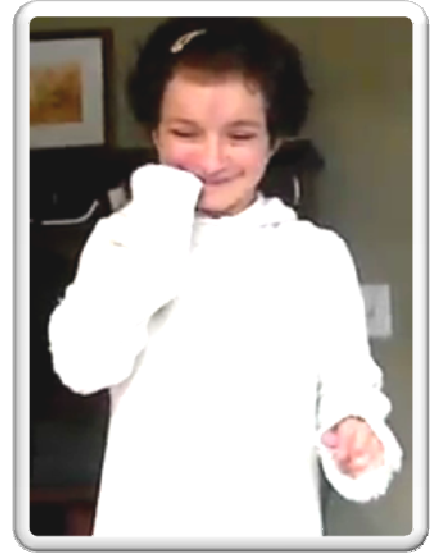


Next we have some special guests who have had some amazing experiences regarding their own children. Craig and Megan Kerber are parents of three (ages 13, 11, and 3) with some amazing experiences to tell us about.

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: (NASB) *being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;*

God's grace gives us that strength.

Theme Text: 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.*



Our 5th kid lesson:



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.

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."
-Angela Schwindt

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: (NASB) ²⁰They brought the boy to him. When he saw him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. ²¹And he asked his father, How long has this been happening to him? And he said, From childhood. ²²It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us! ²³And Jesus said to him, If you can? All things are possible to him who believes. ²⁴Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, I do believe; help my unbelief. ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, you deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.

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: (NASB) ¹²Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

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:



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: (NASB) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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...!*





**And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**

First a few quotes:

I brought children into this dark world because it needed the light that only a child can bring. -Liz Armbruster

A characteristic of the normal child is he doesn't act that way very often.
~Author Unknown

Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought to tell a child to go to bed. -Robert Gallagher

Here are a few different perspectives on raising children ranging from less than ten years ago to over 200 years ago! Both are still helpful!

Rules for Raising Children (Author Unknown)

Suzanna Wesley was the mother of nineteen children, among them were John and Charles Wesley. It has been said that the Methodist faith was born on the lap of a mother, Suzanne Wesley. She spent one hour each day in prayer. That's seven hours each week! She spent one hour per week with each child individually imparting spiritual life and wisdom. That's nineteen hours! Suzanna Wesley over two hundred years ago formulated sixteen rules for raising children. They are still pretty good rules!

1. Eating between meals is not allowed.
2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 pm.
3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
4. They are to subdue their self-will so that they might be open to God's salvation.
5. Teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.
7. Give them nothing they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
11. Commend and reward good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to reverence God.



Rules for Raising a Respectful Child

Adrian H. Cline, Superintendent

September 2, 2003

There is not a one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to teaching children to be respectful. You can be sure, however, that children whose parents treat them with respect and who are brought up in an atmosphere of respect will understand the value of respect. Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful in teaching your child the value and practice of respect:

1. Identify respect. Acknowledge and point out to your child behavior that indicates the presence of respect.
2. Explain your policy on respect and the consequences for disrespect.
3. Show respect for your child. Encourage your child to express his or her ideas and opinions.
4. Set limits. Do not be afraid to say "no." Be firm, clear, and calm. Uphold your parental status. Do not give in and allow your child to have his way.
5. Put a stop to disrespectful behavior. Respond immediately. Tell your child his or her behavior is disrespectful and respond with a consequence, such as a time-out, so he or she can cool off.
6. Insist on respectful dissent. Explain to your child that he or she does not have to agree with you, but he or she has to be respectful when giving dissent.
7. Talk to your child about treating others the way he or she would like to be treated. This will provide a ruler against which to measure his or her behavior.

In our society it is necessary to show respect for one another. Following the Golden Rule will always lead you in the right direction.