

Children - Connecting with God - Part 2

Weekly Discussion & Journal Guide

Ice Breaker

What did you want (or do you) to be when you grew up?

Sermon Notes

We tend to spend a lot of thought, resources, and energy on what we want to “be” when we grow up, but not on what we want to be *like* (i.e. kind, generous, wise, faithful, etc.). It can be scary to think of what we want to be *like* vs. what we *are* becoming like given our current trajectory. God’s design is to change that trajectory, so that as his children we become like him, specifically, to “love like Dad loves”. Unfortunately, this is easier said than done, as our un-love gets in the way. The walls of our un-love are built on the foundations of the un-love we’ve received - and it is that foundation that we need to chip away at in order to “love like Dad loves”.

Questions

1. Who is someone that you want to be like and why?
2. What do you want to avoid becoming like?
3. Are you on your way to becoming like the person you want to be like? Why or why not?
4. Who is someone that loves others in a way that models the way God loves?
5. What is a way you’ve experienced God that has shown you how deeply loved you are?
6. When you think about walking in love, what gets in the way?
 - a. Share something you feel led to lay down/give up in order to love others.
7. What is one example of un-love that you need to rid yourself of?
8. What are the “walls” of your un-love built up on?
9. What is one specific way you can love like God loves this week?

Additional Reading

1 John 3:1-3, Ephesians 5:1-2, Romans 8:14-17, 1 Timothy 5:1-12

Text Group Prompts

1. Share a prayer request with your text group
2. Consider sharing what is at your foundation and how you can help each other chip away at them.

Daily Readings

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Genesis 38-39	Genesis 40-41	Genesis 42-43	Genesis 44-45	Genesis 46-47	Genesis 48-50

Journaling Questions

This week in Year of the Bible, we focus almost entirely on “the Joseph Story” and get fully into it - the longest of the narratives about the early leaders of God’s people. As we consider how extended the story is – 13 chapters! – we have more opportunity to see God’s faithful hand and purpose at work in our story as well.

Journal Entry 1

Like Joseph’s story, our journey of faith has both breakthroughs and setbacks. Joseph went from ruler over Potiphar’s house to being thrown in prison and forgotten. Write as honestly as you can to God a prayer about any time you may have felt forgotten or forsaken by Him, and His faithfulness in bringing you through that time.

Journal Entry 2

God calls us to make right our broken relationships. This was true of Joseph’s brothers and is true for us. Doing this often involves loving confrontation and humble confession. If we are God’s children through Christ, then we are also sisters and brothers through Christ. Is there someone in your community or in your life who you need to confront? Write a prayer asking God for the courage to do so when that is needed in your Christian relationships. Thank him that as his child, you belong to Him - with all your sins and shortcomings – just as much as your Christian brothers and sisters.

Journal Entry 3

The high point of whole Joseph Story is found in Genesis 50:20 – “what (others) intended for evil, God intended for good”. Ponder Joseph’s statement and reflect on how this has been true in your story of faith. Write a prayer of thanks to God as you recount situations when God showed Himself stronger than forces that tried to harm you.