



OCTOBER 10

Sermon Outline

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 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.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

3 Keys to reaching children with the gospel

1. Family habits

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover... And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41, 52

2. Set goals

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies.

Psalms 8:2

3. Self-sacrifice

The father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again..."

Luke 15:20-24

CHILDHOOD: THE EARLY YEARS

Opening Thought

The season is changing in Ohio! The full beauty of autumn colors will be here soon! And it reminds us that although things in our lives also change, the gospel informs each different stage. In this new sermon series we'll discover how Jesus leads us to fruitfulness and faithfulness at every age. Our earliest years are a critical season for faith formation and it is critical that we teach and demonstrate the gospel to children.

Icebreaker

- Did you ever get lost or separated from your parents?
- Would you rather get lost in a city or in the wilderness?

READ Luke 2:41-46

- Why did Jesus' parents take him to Jerusalem each year?
- What is the significance of the Passover feast? (read Deuteronomy 6:1-3)

READ Luke 2:47-52

- Do you think Mary's reaction is understandable?
- What motivated Jesus to stay behind in Jerusalem?

Discussion

- Did you hear the gospel when you were a child? From whom?
- What happens when parents try to pass on habits to their children that they themselves don't have?
- How might the Lord use you to help a child grow in wisdom and stature, in favor with God and other people?

FOR PARENTS

- How would you react if your child came to you with the kind of request the prodigal son brought to his father?
- What are the rewards of parenthood for you?
- Do you find it difficult to teach the gospel to your kids?
- How is God growing you through your kids?