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CHURCH IN THE WILD

WEEK 2 | THE NEXT GEN

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for your Word that affirms that you lavish your love on us and that we are called children of God. Help us, in turn, to demonstrate your love toward others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Are there any heirloom items in your family that you know of or know that you will inherit one day?

NOTES

WORD

¹³ Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went away.

[Matthew 19:13-15](#) (ESV)

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

[Ephesians 6:4](#) (ESV)

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

[Romans 12:9](#) (ESV)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = doesn't really affect me, 10 = I have a big role to play in this), how would you rate your level of responsibility or compassion towards the next generation (i.e. kids, teenagers, university students) in terms of guiding them towards a better future? Why would you rate yourself this?
2. When Jesus is saying that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the little children, what do you think he means?
3. Children serve here as a metaphor for humility. The humility of a child consists of childlike trust and vulnerability - they are unable to advance their own agenda without the help, direction, and resource of a parent. If children represent humility, and we are to aide them and give them direction, why do you think the disciples scolded the parents/caregivers for bringing the children to Jesus? Can you think of a time when you might have 'scolded' or not have been too happy about taking a step back to make way for the next generation? Why did you feel this way?

4. Jesus says not to hinder the children and instead bring them to him. What measures or steps can you take in your sphere of influence to help the next generation receive their true inheritance? Would you like to pray for these people?
5. In [Matthew 18:1-4](#), Jesus tells us to turn away from our sins and become like little children with humility, so that we, too, can inherit the kingdom of God. If you are not yet a Christian and you would like to experience the love of Jesus for his children, can we pray for you now?

PRAYER LIST