



SESSION

9

CHILDREN

AS IMAGE-BEARERS

*UNLESS YOU TURN
AND BECOME
LIKE ONE . . .*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves the little children. And so do most people. Children are often what make our lives so enriching. But not everyone feels the same way about kids. "What's so great about being a parent? I already have a life of my own," a newly married Christian might say. That's our topic for the day.

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

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THE BACKSTORY

Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

—Psalm 139:13-16

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

—Mark 10:13-16

You might also want to read:
1 John 3:1-2.

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In what ways do children reflect the nature of God? Why all children, not just the “normal” ones? What has delighted you most about your own children (or nephews or nieces)?

2. What does the fact that Jesus came into the world as a baby and went through every stage of childhood say about how God sees and values children?

3. What would society be like (other than destined for extinction) if there were no children?

4. What’s the role of children in the family? How has your outlook on life been changed by them? Describe how being a parent has forced you to grow up and put others first.

5. What scared or scares you most about becoming a parent? Explain. Why do many couples today choose not to have children?

6. How are childhood and children themselves being attacked in the world today? How are these attacks on God himself?

**ONE
STEP
I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW**

Think of and write down at least one practical thing you can do tomorrow as a result of today's session.

WRAP-UP

We've already hinted at what might make some people, even Christians, reluctant to have children. Self-sacrifice doesn't come naturally to any of us. But we should explore this more thoroughly. What's the core of the problem faced by families today? We face the hard facts in our next session.