

## Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World

By: Dan Jenkins

On two occasions, Jesus used little children to deliver some of the clearest truths about the kind of heart we must have to enter heaven. These occasions are found in Matthew 18 and Matthew 19 and also in other gospel accounts. Look at what He so vividly taught us about what God wants us to become.

**Jesus loves the little children of the world.** We may have sung these words, but Jesus lived them. As He was busy teaching adults, some brought their children to Jesus. The apostles rebuked those who were doing this. Jesus stopped what He was doing and spent time with these little ones saying, “Do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (**Mark 10:15**).

**Jesus showed His love by His actions.** The gospels say that He touched them. He picked them up and sat them in the midst of the disciples so all could see them. He took them up in His arms. He laid His hands on them. He blessed them. Imagine how years later a grandfather could tell his grandchildren about the time Jesus used his five small loaves and two small fish to feed thousands. Imagine anyone telling others, “When I was a child I sat in Jesus’ lap.”

**Children are not born with inherited sin or a sinful nature.** All children at birth are just as innocent as Jesus was when He was born. Baby Jesus was not a sinner, nor did he have a sinful nature. He was in every way the same as we are (**Heb. 2:17**). Sinful men must be converted and become like an innocent child.

Children are not evil, nor do they have an evil nature.

**Children are an example of the kind of hearts we must have.** They are an example of humility. Read the gospel accounts carefully, and you will see just how often the apostles argued over who would be the greatest in the kingdom. How did Jesus visibly show how sinful this attitude is? He used a child and said we must become like that child to enter heaven.

**Children have angels who behold the Father.** Jesus said that to receive a little child was to receive Him and then described God’s anger over those who destroy that child’s innocent faith. “It would be better for him that a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depths of the sea” (**Matt. 18:6**). He taught them that children have angels who see what adults are doing to children and said that these angels also are in the presence of God. They will report to God what you have done! These same angels can report how you taught them.

Take time to look at children and to become like them. The doors of heaven will be closed to you if you do not.



# Raising Children that Understand Marriage

By: Selected

He saw her admiring her new white dress in the mirror. “Look Daddy! See how it spins!” she said as she twirled. He smiled in response, knowing one day that it would be a wedding dress and on that day he would have to give his little girl away. “Who will it be?” he thought. “Will he take care of her and make her happy?” More importantly, “Will he be a spiritual leader in the home?” Then, the thought occurred to him, “Will she be strong if he is not? What does she need to know, besides firearm training and hand-to-hand combat? Am I raising her to be ready for that day?”

He raised a good question. Are we raising our children to be ready for marriage? We are all doing our best to raise children that are ready and prepared to leave the nest. We make sure they get an education, that they choose a career that will sustain them. We also do our best to teach them the Bible, to educate them on God’s will for their lives and to exemplify that life before them. But, what are we purposely doing to raise them for being married, boys and girls alike?

The first place that children learn about marriage is in the home. Both good and bad behaviors are typically copied or transferred into their marriages, unless some purposeful effort is made. For example, how the son views his role as a father is seen in the role his father played, or didn’t play, in his life. How the son saw his father treat his mother will also be a factor in how he treats his wife. The same is true for the daughter. Her idea as to what a mother should do and how she should be treated as a wife are programmed into her by her parents.

What are we as parents to do? We need to model a healthy relationship before our children. I am not talking about a June and

Ward Cleaver relationship. We do a disservice to our children by not resolving conflict in front of them. Now hear me—there are conflicts that could do harm if talked about in front of children. However, they need to see that conflict is normal and can be worked through.

Another aspect is that roles need to be clearly defined (**Eph. 5:21-31; Col 3:17-21**). God created marriage so it is only fair that we return to His word as an authority on the subject.

Parents also need to be respected. Men, do not let your children speak with disrespect to your betrothed. Wives, do not let your children speak with disdain concerning your husband (**Eph. 6:1**). These are just a few points of many that could be addressed. In general, if the attributes of Christ were modeled in the home towards every member, then most of the work would be done (**Col. 3:1-16**). Will they be ready for marriage? That is up to you. Are you modeling a healthy relationship with your spouse? Do your children know what marriage is about? It is never too early to start good habits.



Upcoming Events

Summer Series Wednesday Bible classes are here! The adult class is studying “Restoring New Testament—Christianity’s Personality Traits.” The kids summer series is studying “The Journey of Noah.”

Sun. July 23: Evangelism training at 3:40pm in the fellowship hall.

Sun. Aug. 6: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45 afternoon service. Please bring a dish to share.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ben Moseley’s granddaughter, Lexi, who will begin physical therapy on her legs.

Georgie Savoie who is struggling with her physical health.

Nathan Elder, a preacher of the brotherhood, had a heart attack.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Service Roster

Week of July 16, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jake Jacobs  
Song Leader ..... Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons  
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Doug Jobes  
Cup..... James Cammock  
Offering..... Dan Fielder  
Assist..... Desmon Flonnory  
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs  
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader ..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford  
Closing Prayer..... Bryant Siegel

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Will Burleson/  
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class ..... Ron White  
Song Leader ..... Jack Jobes  
Devotional ..... Ron White

Other

Prepare Communion for July..... Sheeran

Congregational News

Birthdays

Clifton Rutherford..... July 17  
Ezekiel Starling..... July 20  
Desmon Flonnory, II..... July 22

Anniversaries

James & Emily Cammock..... July 17

Contact Labels for Mark and Gloria Jones are on the table in the foyer. Please make sure to update your pocket directory.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up sheets for hosting Youth Devos, preparing communion, and opening & closing the building for 2023 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

## Weekly Reading

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this  
is well pleasing to the Lord.  
Colossians 3:20

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of July 9, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....83  
A.M. Worship.....107  
P.M. Worship.....80  
Wednesday Bible Class.....60

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

---

**midtown**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361-573-0030

midtowncoc.org

**Weekly Communication!** To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email [events.midtowncoc@gmail.com](mailto:events.midtowncoc@gmail.com).