



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Guide-rails - We Get The Kids Are Our Now, 1/14/24 - Amidst all the pursuits people get caught up in, the real stuff often falls to the way side. It's never the intention, but in the hustle of the world, it's all too easy to lose sight of what is most important. Our kids don't deserve just a wing and a prayer. They need our intentional efforts now. And, in the process of raising them well, we could learn a few things from them. (*Passages: Matthew 18:1-6 & 19:13-15*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

What does God value the most? How can we become great by his standards? What distractions draw us away from what really matters? Why is it difficult to maintain focus here?

Read Matthew 18:1-5. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

Our social media following doesn't catch God's eye. Money doesn't impress him. Our good works don't earn us the best seat. The hearts of children are simple. They see beauty and worth where we don't even think to look. But in the next chapter, we find the disciples have forgotten this lesson quickly. What specific quality did Jesus highlight? How else should we be like children? Why can this be so hard to prioritize? What about this challenges you most?

Confidence, curiosity, humility, wonder, trust — these are good enough for God. Our focus needs to switch from our "to-do's" to God's story. We need to lose the cynicism and bitterness, and enjoy our relationship with him and others. Let's talk less and listen more. Remember to stay teachable and celebrate like kids.

Read Matthew 18:6. What is Jesus' command here? Why?

Jesus emphasizes the urgency of nurturing and encouraging our children. We want every kid to experience a safe, fun, biblically-focused, and developmentally appropriate environment; to love church. God expects us to provide this for our kids; it is the most important thing we can do. What can you do to help the kids in your life grow? In the church?

Weekly Challenge: Serve on a team! Email info@gracefreechurch.net to request more information.