

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- How have you seen the three ➤ *How do you see kids?* views in action? How do they go too far? How can they be blended in what turns out to be negative or positive?
- Have you had any experiences with being mentored or disciplined? What did it consist of? What do you believe is crucial for discipleship to have an effect? Which has changed you more - being disciplined or being a discipler?
- Read Mark 10:13-16. List all the people in the account. Describe how each felt and why you think they felt that way. When have you felt that way?
- Review the message guide outline. What resonated with you? Any new concepts? What known ideas were reinforced?
- Do you ever see the kids in your life as disruptions? If so, how? What are they 'disrupting' in your mind? What does the way you see them say about the way you see yourself?
- Have you ever treated the kids in your life as demigods? If so, how? Why is it easy for kids to become 'little gods' in your mind?
- Do you truly see the kids in your life as disciples? What are you doing to disciple them to Jesus? Are you doing something to disciple them to someone or something other than Him?
- Read John 3:30 from the message guide. How do John the Baptist's words make you feel when applied to parenting and influencing kids? What was John's goal? How do you think you can go about this as a parent or a person who influences kids? How does Ephesians 6:4 MSG clarify how we are to influence kids?
- Review the *Am I Making Following Jesus Attractive?* questions. What are your answers and how could they become more of a reality in your life??

Next Steps: What actionable steps could you take to make the truth in the bottom line more a part of your everyday life?

Changing Your Mind: Work on memorizing this verse: ⁶*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress 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 NIV

If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them (pray for them—Matthew 19:13), but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:13–16 NIV page 690

➤ How do you see kids? (Mark 10:13 NIV)

- Kids are disruptions complicating life.
- Kids are demigods completing life.

One of the greatest things
a parent can do for his/her children
is to love their mother/father.

¹⁸Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man! ¹⁹Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose— don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted! ²⁰Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills with a whore? for a dalliance with a promiscuous stranger? ²¹Mark well that God doesn't miss a move you make; he's aware of every step you take. ²²The shadow of your sin will overtake you; you'll find yourself stumbling all over yourself in the dark. ²³Death is the reward of an undisciplined life; your foolish decisions trap you in a dead end.

Proverbs 5:18–23 MSG

Kids are disciples complementing life.

¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these little children."
Mark 10:14 NIV, ERV, DFS

Our discipling priority as a parent or influencer
is to reposition a child's dependence away
from us until it rests exclusively on Jesus.

⁴...Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.
Ephesians 6:4 MSG

³⁰Jesus must become more important [in prominence], while I become less important, he moves into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines.
John 3:30 CEV, AMP, MSG, DFS

¹⁶Then Jesus held the children in his arms. He laid his hands on them and blessed them.
Mark 10:16 ERV

- Jesus wanted them to come to Him.
- Jesus wanted to encourage them.
- Jesus wanted to send them.

☞ How do you express your view of kids?

Disruptions ⇨ Irritation

³Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord. Psalm 127:3 CEV

Demigods ⇨ Obsession

¹⁴But people are tempted when their own evil desire leads them away and traps them.
James 1:14 NCV

Disciples ⇨ Opportunities

⁶Point, train [disciple] your kids in the right direction [dedicate them to God]— when they're old they won't be lost. The values they've learned from you will be with them for life.
Proverbs 22:6 MSG, ESV, NIV, DFS

Bottom Line:

Disciplined Parents (Disciples) Disciple

³¹... live your life in a way that others recognize Jesus and want to follow Him... ¹I want you to follow me as I follow Jesus...

1 Corinthians 10:31; 11:1 DFS

Am I Making Following Jesus Attractive?

Do I believe that my kids are not mine but rather a gift from God entrusted to me?

Am I partnering with God to enable my kids to become who He intends them to be?

Do they know how delighted and excited I am about them? Do they feel like I'm on their side?

Am I living/growing in my relationship with Christ so that my kids have an example to follow?

Am I pointing my kids to obedience and providing corrective guidance and discipline that is both firm and fair?

*Pastor Dave often uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the "Think It Over" section on the back.