

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 were you disciplined growing up? Give some examples. How have you disciplined children in your care? What would you do differently? What are some of the ways parents push their kids' buttons unnecessarily? As a child, how did you experience your buttons being pushed by your parents? What buttons need to be avoided when trying to influence kids?
- 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? How have you seen a confused perspective on kids? When have you been caught up with a confused perspective? What did you do?
- Review the "↪ A clear perspective on kids" section. What are your opportunities to influence kids? How have you seen being an "helicopter parent" get in the way of releasing a child to rest firmly in Jesus?
- 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 go about this as a parent or a person who influence kids? How does Ephesians 6:4 MSG clarify how we are to influence kids?
- Review the "↪ A clear perspective from grown kids" section. How would you explain Mark 10:15 ERV to an adult? Why is it crucial to be a growing Christ follower in order to lead a child to be a growing Christ follower? How comfortable do you feel with 1 Corinthians 10:31; 11:1 TPT? Could you say this both to kids and adults without coming across self-righteous?
- Review the marks questions. What are your answers and how could the reality of them become more of your life? What do you do with Proverbs 23:13-14 MSG?

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

Changing Your Mind: ⁶These 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

The Perspectives

↪ A confused perspective on kids

¹³...the disciples kept rebuking and scolding the people for doing it.
Mark 10:13 TPT

Kids complicate life.

Kids complete life.

The second most significant thing
a father/mother can do for his/her children
is to love their mother/father.

Proverbs 5:18-21 MSG

Kids complement life.

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

↳ A clear perspective on kids

¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant... Mark 10:14 NIV

¹⁴... "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 ERV

Our 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 move into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines.
John 3:30 CEV, AMP, MSG

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

↳ A clear perspective from grown kids

¹⁵The truth is, you must accept God's kingdom like a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it."
Mark 10:15 ERV

⁵Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)
Ephesians 1:5 MSG

Our parenting or influencing should disciple a child in ways that make following Jesus attractive.

³¹... live your life in a way that glorifies and honors God... 'I want you to pattern your lives after me, just as I pattern mine after Christ.
1 Corinthians 10:31; 11:1TPT

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?

Correct more for attitude than actions.

¹³Don't be afraid to correct your young ones; a spanking won't kill them. ¹⁴A good spanking, in fact, might save them from something worse than death.
Proverbs 23:13–14 MSG

Bottom Line:

Loving the way Jesus loves kids
is loving the way He loves you.

Resources for this message include a message by James Emery White at Mecklenburg Community Church, Northpoint Church, and Christ's Church of the Valley.

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