

POTOMAC HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Personal and Group Study Guide for May 10, 2020

The 30th Sermon in a series on The Gospel of Mark, "The King and His Cross"

"Young and Old"

INTRODUCTION: *The Age Conversion Quiz*

**** Key Questions**

1. How old were you when you came to Christ?
2. **Read Genesis 1:27.** What difference does it make that people are made in the image of God? **

Read Mark 10:13, 16: THE CHILDREN ARE BROUGHT

3. Why were parents bringing their babies to Jesus for a blessing?
4. Why were the disciples rebuking the parents?
5. **Read Mark 9:35-37, 42:** How does Jesus use children as spiritual examples? **
6. Neil Postman wrote a book called The Disappearance of Childhood. Why are we to guard and protect our children from "adult secrets" (to use Dr. Postman's words)? **

Read Mark 10:14: CHILD-LIKE BEING

7. Why is helplessness the essential nature of small children?
8. What does that teach us about entering the Kingdom of God? **

Read Mark 10: 15: CHILD-LIKE RECEIVING

9. How do the words ... trust, humility, receptivity, and love ... describe the elements of child-like receiving? **
10. What's the difference between a childish faith and a child-like faith?

APPLICATION: *Remove the Hindrances*

11. How do the four hindrances ... adult pride, parental unbelief, lack of knowing Bible doctrine, and not showing up ... keep children from coming to Jesus? **
12. If you have baptized children, how hard is it (or was it) to *teach them the great truths of the Christian faith* (part of the parent's baptismal promises)?

Close with prayer. Here are some suggestions from *Dr. Daniel Darling*:

Mother's Day can bring a mix of emotions for many women. There are those anticipating the birth of their first child, step-moms wondering what their place is, those who have lost their mother and are faced with grieving on Mother's Day, there are moms who encounter feelings of hurt because their children have turned from God, and those overwhelmed with pain from the loss of a child. No matter what you face this Mother's Day, you can turn to God and experience peace and healing through prayer. Here are some **Mother's Day Prayers** for you to use:

Dear Father, we approach your throne on behalf of the mothers whom you have entrusted with the care of your most precious little ones. We thank you for creating each mom with a unique combination of gifts and talents. We thank you for the sacrifice of self each mom gives for her children. For the late nights spent rocking a colicky infant. For the hands calloused from washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, backing, stirring, hugging, patting, disciplining, holding, writing, erasing, painting, and pouring.

We thank you for the gift of time moms give for their kids, whether it's stay-at-home moms, working moms, and moms who have some combination of the two. We thank you for the flexibility of moms, for their tirelessness, their perseverance, and their devotion.

We pray you give each mom strength. Help her to see in every mundane task the eternal, cosmic significance that you place on motherhood. Help her to understand that the most radical, world-changing events may be happening anonymously in her home. Help her to forgive those who undermine her significance.

We especially pray for single moms, who must lean solely on you for the fathering of their children. We thank you that your big arms surround children who may never know their earthly father.

We pray for our friend who is still waiting to be a mother. Would You touch her with special encouragement and strength today? Father, let her know You see her struggle and care about her grief. Give her faith to believe You hear her prayers; reassure her that you have plans to bless her and give her a hopeful future.

We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. We ask you to be their living water. We ask you to be their source of spiritual and physical strength. We pray that the same grace that flowed from Father to Son to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children. We pray that each mother rejects perfectionism and instead embraces the goodness of the gospel. We pray the rhythms of repentance and forgiveness shape every home.

Lord, give each mother a worshipful reverence of you, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help each mother to rest in the knowledge that they are but stewards of your children and that only your Spirit can produce change into the hearts of each boy and girl. May each mother find rest in you.

Most of all, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, **may we love and cherish the special women** who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. Amen.