



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 12th May 2024



A different perspective Mark 10:13-16 and 1 Samuel 1-3

Warm Up

Have you ever been surprised by children's ability to act beyond their years? How about the realisation that the elderly person you sat next to on the bus turned out to be a war hero or invented something we all now take for granted? Share some stories.

Background and context

Families can be very strange things. Some large, some small. Some well managed and some dysfunctional. They are the heart of society. It is no different in church. We are all one family, one body. Families have different generations that all play an important part in ensuring the strength and well-being of everyone. Sometimes we forget that children have a key role to play as do the more senior members of our clan. God desires all generations to play an important part in building His kingdom.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ 1 Samuel 1-3. and Mark 10:13-16. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. In the first three chapters of 1 Samuel, what evidence is there that God has a concern for families?
2. How would you compare or contrast Hannah's approach to family and Eli's approach to family?
3. When the Lord called Samuel he was only about 12 yrs old. Does that surprise you? Are there other instances in the Bible where God uses young people?
4. Why did the Lord condemn Eli and his sons? What can we learn about how God values family from this?
5. Despite Eli's failings as a parent, he mentored Samuel. Why should this give us hope and encouragement?
6. **Read Mk 10:13-16.** Why is Jesus so concerned to bless children? Why would this have been counter-cultural? What does it mean to have "child-like faith"?

Discipleship and application



7. Spend some time reflecting on Psalm 71:17-8. How can you apply it to your own life?
Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds. Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.