



“Kids Change Everything”

SBC Children's Ministry Day Sermon

Sermon Title: Kids Change Everything

Sermon Text: Psalm 127:1-5

Supporting Passages:

Job 10:11, Psalm 139:13-14, Proverbs 22:6, 2 Timothy 1:5, 2 Timothy 3:14-15, 3 John 1:4

Opening Illustration: A Father Changed from

In a popular family movie, there is a character who is an evil character. He wants to be known around the world as the most notorious villain to ever live. In one of his more evil schemes, he agrees to take in three sisters from an orphanage as part of his devious plans.

Something happens in his heart when he brings these little girls into his home and into his life. Things change.

The man's heart was changed. From the beginning of the movie to the end, the girls changed him from the inside out. The most notorious villain the world has ever known is now a father of three little girls who have him wrapped around their little fingers.

Application

It proves the point, kids change things. Kids change families. Kids change their parents. Grandkids *really change* their grandparents. When a baby is brought home, children are adopted, or two families join together making a new family, everything changes.

Kids change everything in a family. Kids change everything in a church family. A church family with kids is very different than a church family without kids. Kids change the schedule. Kids change the security measures we use. Kids change the focus of outreach events. Kids change our church staffs. Kids change the paint color and the building layout.

When children are present in a church family, ***everything is changed and I believe changed for the better.***

Turn in your Bible to **Psalm 127.**

Passage Context

Psalms 127 is written by a man named Solomon. King Solomon to be exact. Solomon was the son of King David and Queen Bathsheba. Many of you know the story of David and Bathsheba. You might also know that they lost their first child together. Solomon was their second child.

Solomon became the king and became a father many times over. He had numerous sons. Nearly the entire Book of Proverbs is the writings of Solomon to one of his sons, or possibly all of them, in sharing wisdom and giving counsel how to handle numerous situations.

In Psalm 127, Solomon is writing a psalm, a song, a worship song, a song of ascents, which means that while a procession would be moving up a mountain, usually toward the Temple which he built, for worship, they would sing this song.

Listen to how this song provides a picture of how kids change our lives.

Psalms 127:1-5 (CSB)

¹ Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain; unless the LORD watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain. ² In vain you get up early and stay up late, working hard to have enough food— yes, he gives sleep to the one he loves. ³ Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, offspring, a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one's youth. ⁵ Happy is the man who has filled his quiver with them. They will never be put to shame when they speak with their enemies at the city gate.

From this song from King Solomon we find four (4) things kids change. Four things that make us, as a church, function differently. Four ways kids change everything for the better.

4 Things Kids Change in Your Church Family

1. Kids change your coming and going. No church is ever the same. (vv. 1-2)

Look back at verse 1-2. Solomon begins his song talking about how the Lord builds the house.

verse 1 says *“Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain; unless the LORD watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain.”*

Many a church building project has used this verse as their theme verse. *Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor over it vain.*

Could it be that this verse has nothing to do with a church building project? Could it be this verse is referring to God building a family, a church family, a house not constructed with brick and mortar, but constructed with parents, volunteers, leaders, and kids, babies, toddlers, children, students. Could it be that the labor will not include steel, wood, and concrete, but instead love, patience and tireless energy?

Unless the Lord builds the house, the leaders, the volunteers, the parents, the grandparents, its builders, all labor in vain.

verse 2 returns to the theme of vanity in saying, *“In vain you get up early and stay up late, working hard to have enough food— yes, he gives sleep to the one he loves.”*

Application

Unless the Lord builds your family, you labor in vain. Unless the Lord builds your marriage, you labor in vain. You can read every parent book, go to parent seminars, listen to every child psychologist, teacher, author, and the like, but unless the Lord builds you up as parents, you still labor in vain. God must be the center of your house, if you want the house to build up the right way.

When you have kids, your coming and your going is changed. You are never the same. You have to get up early. You have to go to bed late. You toil all day with getting this and getting that. Going here and running there. Buying this, throwing out that. Day after day. Month after month. Year after year. When God puts children in a family, they are never the same.

And only God, says verse 2, *can give sleep to the one he loves.*

Illustration: Parents Praying for Sleep

Most parents can remember praying to God asking for their children to sleep. Parents remember early on when babies need to eat around the clock and need to be rocked and burped and cuddled and snuggled for the baby to just go to sleep. Just sleep through the night.

Ask any of our new parents or more recent parents with a baby how precious sleep is. And if they coherently respond, be thankful because they are so tired.

Transition

Kids change your coming and going. You are never the same. Verse. 3 really brings two points into view. The first is that kids change your present reality. The Bible says they are a gift.

2. Kids change your present reality. They are a reward. (v. 3)

Solomon wants us to know that your present life, when children come, is forever different. You are receiving a precious, God-created, God-given gift.

3 Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, offspring, a reward.

Application

The fruit of the womb is a gift, a reward. Every child is a gift from God. New life is always a gift of God.

Every child is made in the image of God with a soul placed within, created exactly as God would have it be created.

Job 10:11 *You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and tendons.*

Psalms 139:13-14 *For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.*

- **Children are a blessing, not a burden.**
- **Children are a gift, not an aggravation.**
- **Children are a reward, not a restraint.**
- **Children are a gift to be enjoyed, not a pain to be endured.**

Illustration: Talk to a Family Struggling

If you don't believe the Word of God that children are a blessing, a gift, ask any parents who have struggled to have children. Then, one day, either through adoption or birth, they are expecting their little one. Ask them about the reward from the Lord. Ask them about the blessing.

New parents give thanks to God for their new little son or daughter. God is the giver of life. And each life He gives is a gift.

Transition

Children are a gift for a church family. They change our present reality. They make us think about the bigger picture. They give us a glimpse of the church coming together for the next generation.

Vs. 3 also tells us that

3. Kids change your future perspective. They are a heritage. (v. 3)

³ Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, offspring, a reward.

A heritage. Your church's present reality is changed with this gift, but your church's future is also changed.

For parents, their future estate, inheritance, all the accumulated worldly goods will be bestowed to their children. Their children will carry on their legacy. More than DNA and genetics are being passed down. Family traditions, life lessons, character, principles, values, and morals will be passed to the next generation.

For a church family, it is the same. Children will carry on the legacy, traits, and traditions of your church. Most importantly, they will carry on the gospel to the next generation. They will carry the message of Christ to their peers, to their families, to their communities, to their children, and their children's children.

We can never underestimate the heritage that is found in our children's ministry efforts. Yes, we are certainly investing in the present, but we are also investing in the future.

What kind of heritage are we leaving with our kids? What kind of legacy are they receiving from us?

Proverbs 22:6 *Teach a youth about the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

You know what teaches them the most. Your habits. Your practices. They learn more from what they see you do than what they hear you say. *More is caught than taught.*

You can train them, discipline them, punish them, talk with them, instruct them, plead with them, but what they are going to learn the most about you, your heritage, your life, and your character is by what they see, not what they hear you saying they should do.

Illustration: Timothy in Scripture

Timothy is a good example of a heritage of faith being passed from two generations to him.

2 Timothy 1:5 *I recall your sincere faith that you first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, 15 and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Application

If your children were asked what is the most prevalent thing in your home, what answer would they give? What “thing” in your home has the majority of your attention? TV? Internet? Cell phone? Books? Movies? Video games? Where your attention lies most is obvious to your children and influences what you’re passing on to them.

Transition

They change your present reality and they change your future perspective.

4. Kids change your view of the world. They are a blessing. (vv. 4-5)

⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one’s youth. ⁵Happy is the man who has filled his quiver with them.

Refers to them as arrows in the hands of a warrior. Blessed is the man who has a whole quiver full of kids.

His heart and chest expands with pride as he speaks of his children. Like a proud Papa pulling out wallet photos, Solomon is proud of his sons and daughters and speaks of them often.

Kids are a blessing. From the moment you become a parent, you can’t help but brag on your kids. Talking about your kids, thinking about your kids, and remembering your kids brings you great blessing and joy.

The same for a church. Kids are a blessing. A blessing to your church family. When a child comes to faith in Christ, when they are baptized, when they show early gifts of the Spirit, when they bring their parents with them, when they praise the Lord with their little hearts fully devoted to Christ, the entire church family is blessed.

John writes...

3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

A church family has no greater joy than to hear that their children are walking in the truth.

Conclusion

So how can we respond to the reality that kids change everything?

1. We can properly invest in our kids ministry.

Invest in staffing. Invest in facilities. Invest in security measures. Invest in parent training. Invest in VBS, kids camp, and ongoing programming. Invest in any way possible. We truly reap what we sow. Are we sowing sparingly in our kids ministry or are we sowing abundantly?

2. We can faithfully and joyfully serve in the kids ministry.

Kids ministry volunteers play a vital role as they invest in kids and their families. They can be one of the first connections a family has with the church. It can be a thankless job, but the fruits of the ministry are rewarding.

3. We can regularly pray for the kids ministry.

The power of prayer can't be overlooked. Our children are facing a spiritual battle. Someone or something is going to win their hearts. Let's regularly pray that their hearts are won to Christ. Pray for their leaders. Pray for their families. Pray for the homes they come from. Pray that the message of the gospel will be deeply rooted in their hearts.

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