

**Children & Youth**  
LifeGroup Lesson  
Vital Signs Sermon Series  
Psalm 78:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**OPENING PRAYER:**

"Save our children from us, O Lord, for we are a more present danger to their souls than the world we so passionately seek to save and protect them from. We confess we have let Your call slip by. We have stubbornly fixed ourselves upon traditions grown cold and stagnant. Yet the Spirit of the living God moves throughout the earth, seeking children open to Your touch that You might replenish the earth with joy. O God, open our eyes to see Your Spirit at work. May we humble ourselves to sit at the feet of our children, and catch the stirrings of the new life You are creating in them. Amen."

-- Len Sweet and Karin Bacon

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- Who is the keeper of your family stories and traditions? What is your favorite family story?
- As a child, what was one lesson you were taught by an adult for which you are most grateful?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:<sup>1</sup>**

We often see our children as the Next Generation, rather than the generation that is. Today we study two scriptures that remind us of the importance of passing on our faith. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

- It has been said that "God has no grandchildren." What does this statement mean to you?
- These verses provide physical examples of how to remember the Lord's commands. Do you have any physical/tangible devotions?
- How do you demonstrate your love for God? How does this fulfill verse 5? What will you do today to demonstrate this love?
- How important is it to you that the children in your life grow up to celebrate God's love and appreciate His role in their life? How can you build traditions that teach them about God's love?

Read Psalm 78:1-7.

- What does the writer want future believers to know and not forget about God? Whose responsibility is it to see that they remember?
- What lesson would you like to pass on to the next generation? What historical example would you use to make your point?
- If you were to write another stanza to this Psalm, what would you write?
- How can you take a more active role in helping and nurturing the children in your life/church?

**CLOSING POSSIBILITIES:**

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can the group pray for you this week?

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Grant me today, Lord,

A new heaven and a new earth.

Grant me the wonder of a child who, for the first time,

Opens her eyes upon the world;

The joy of a child who discovers

Your splendor in each object, in each encountered being,

A reflection of Your glory.

Grant me the joy of one whose steps are new.

Grant me the happiness of one whose life is each day fresh and innocent and hopeful, each day pardoned.

Grant me to see everything in Christ -- trees and fields, homes and tasks, animals and people -- and to be thankful, O my God!

-- adapted, Michael Bouttier, Prayers for My Village

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998)