



#3 Getting Intentional at Home

Do you view children primarily as a blessing from God? or, Do you view children primarily as a nuisance and a bother to have around?

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Luke 18:15 *Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”*

What Came Before...

Luke 18:9 *He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

What Came After...

Luke 18:18 *And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” ²¹ And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.*

**IT’S NOT ABOUT TRYING HARD;
IT’S ABOUT TRUSTING HIM.**

INSIGHTS FOR PARENTS

1. Purposeful, Jesus-loving parents will make a point of helping their kids know that Jesus loves them.
2. Purposeful, Jesus-loving parents will intentionally encourage their children to take trusting steps towards Jesus.
3. Intentional, Jesus-loving parents are wise to portray God to their kids as Someone Who wants to be close to them.
4. Purposeful, Jesus-loving parents will strategize ways to avoid inadvertently raising their kids to be Pharisees.
5. Purposeful, Jesus-loving parents know that their church family has a vital, supportive role in shaping the hearts of their kids, so they get intentional about connecting with others who can influence them towards God.

The goal of Purposeful, Intentional Parenting is to train up children who end up loving Jesus and following Him with all their heart.