

## SOME THINGS CHILDREN LEARN FROM WORSHIP SERVICES

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Preacher sees everything: bushy tail, bright eyed; even bushy eyed!
  - 1. Those who need the message filing nails, joking, sleeping; moms pre-occupied with kids fussing, fidgeting.
  - 2. Sometimes parents wonder after services, "Is it all worth it? I don't get anything out of it; I disturb others!"
- B. Eunice probably took Timothy to regular synagogue services 2Tim 1:5
  - 1. Timothy learned something from it 2Tim. 3:14-15
  - 2. Our children can learn the same way Timothy did.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THEY LEARN FAITH IS IMPORTANT

- A. Hard to measure worth of faithful attendance for kids.
  - 1. 40% college kids without religion: #1 reason: Parental hypocrisy
  - 2. Specifically: Folks who attended church only on holidays
- B. It's proven that repetition teaches better than any other means.
  - 1. Even Bible has 2 accounts of the kings (Kings, Chronicles)
  - 2. Not 1 but 4 accounts of Jesus' life!
  - 3. Remember, remember 2Pet 1:13-15; 3:1; Jude 1:5
- C. Need to teach our children spiritual concepts the same way Deut 6:6-12 also repeated in Deut. 11:19-23
- D. What else do they see that we do with that much regularity?
  - 1. What are you doing 3rd Tuesday or 3rd Wednesday of month?
  - 2. Being regular teaches them that God is THE most important
  - 3. This regularity impresses young minds!
  - 4. Children should know if invited to activity Sunday, we don't go;
  - 5. Repeated declines teaches them everything conforms to worship schedule and they see how meaningful worship is:
- E. Teach children we are God's people - When God calls, we answer!
- G. Children never too small to learn importance of faith - don't have to understand what's said, fact of being brought regularly impresses them with the importance of our faith

#### II. THEY LEARN THAT FELLOWSHIP IS VALUABLE Acts 2:42

- A. "Fellowship" - Sharing together, a partnership Phil. 1:1-5
  - 1. Doesn't mean coffee & donuts or a potluck
  - 2. We are partners, participating in a spiritual work.
- B. Christianity never meant to be "solo" endeavor Eph 4:16
  - 1. It's hard enough without having to go it alone
  - 2. Need each other sharing spiritual work of going to heaven
- C. Children must know spiritual work together is important
- D. When children ask...
  - 1. Why is Dad standing at that table? Serving the Lord's supper
  - 2. Why do we bow heads & be still? We're praying together
  - 3. Why be quiet when preacher's talking? studying God's word

- 4. Where does my quarter go? It helps the Lord's work
- E. A far more powerful sharing than anything with coffee & donuts!
  - 1. When they see us concerned for one another, they see that Christianity is not a solo endeavor. 1Cor 12:12-27
  - 2. But they see it ONLY if Mom & Dad believe it!
- F. Paul was encouraged to see the brethren Acts 28:15
  - 1. He needed to see them
  - 2. Be refreshed by his brethren Rom. 15:30-32
  - 3. We want our children to learn that no matter where they are, what they do - If they can find brethren to be with it'll be alright.
  - 4. Important for our children to know we can find comfort with those of "like precious faith" 2Pet 1:1
  - 5. Children must learn fellowship with God's people matters & they learn this as we come together regularly each week

#### III. THEY LEARN HOW A FAMILY WORKS

- A. They learn to respect authority Jas 4:7; Matt 7:21
  - 1. We submit to God; He's greater than us; we do what He says
  - 2. They see authority isn't just for kids, but Mom & Dad too
  - 3. Dad & Mom submit to God - Obedience is for everyone
  - 4. "Children, obey your parents ..." Eph 6:1 - Why? because God said it & we obey God Heb 5:8,9
  - 5. Wonder if some children hate authority because they never saw their folks respect God's authority
- B. They learn what a family is based on Josh. 24:15
  - 1. Joshua's children saw dad take a stand
  - 2. They knew that's what their family was all about
  - 3. They may never get to see us make such a speech but they can see us live Joshua's sentiment
  - 4. If parents live it, then children learn our family's different

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Sunday after Sunday, Wednesday after Wednesday, our children learn our faith causes us to build something worthwhile
- B. We want our children to respect our authority because they see we respect God's
  - 1. They must see me demonstrate faith in God, importance of fellowship, belief in God's word as ultimate authority.
  - 2. I do this by bringing them to worship regularly
- C. What we teach them will get passed from generation to generation 2 Kings 17:39-41
- D. At end of service, your nerves are at end because preacher went longer than your child, so you wonder: "Is this all worth it?" YES, IT IS
- E. Let it be the biggest part of your life so someday it will be the biggest part of your child's life