

2023-24 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. Since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up”. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

In sermon, it was suggested that the religious system in place at the time of Christ emphasized a good works, ritually obedient based understanding of faith, meaning that children were seen as irrelevant to spiritual life, eternal life, and the kingdom of God.

1. Thinking of Christianity in 2024, how might a similar way of thinking be at work, limiting for some the place of children within the church?
2. Sometimes, though ministry to children is spoken of in “valued” terms, “real” ministry is considered reserved for adults. Why might this be so? What assumptions might underlie such an understanding?
3. In sermon, it was suggested that parents brought their children to be blessed by Jesus because of His powerful reputation as a man of God and because He genuinely seems to have enjoyed the presence of children, infants and babies. What other evidence are you aware of for Christ’s affinity for children?
4. Consider the significance of Jesus growing irate over the disciples’ forceful prevention of children from coming to Him. It would seem only His interactions with the Pharisees and the temple being turned into a marketplace elicited similar emotions from Jesus. What does this suggest about Christ’s view of children within His kingdom?
5. Discuss the difference between a ministry in which children are indoctrinated by the Word of God and a ministry in which the Word of God is impressed upon children. How might this understanding shape the form of our ministry to children?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“You also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)
“Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.” (Psalm 8:2, ESV)

In sermon, it was suggested that our ministry to children ought to be aimed at (1) the unimpeded introduction of children to the love of Jesus Christ and (2) the Word of God being impressed upon the hearts of little ones, all while encouraging both ministry to and ministry with children.

1. Describe what you think a children’s ministry focussed on the above two aims might look like? What practical activities would be taking place in such a ministry? In what ways might we still impede children from coming to Jesus?
2. Do you believe that Psalm 8:2 is an operational truth in our world? If we truly believed this as an operational truth, how might it influence our ministry to/with children?
3. Why do you think there might be a reluctance to understand that ministry generated by children can be wholly inspired Holy Spirit birthed ministry? What assumptions have we made that might prevent us from truly valuing the ministry efforts of children?