



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - June 26, 2011

### Sermon

Lessons in the Stained Glass:

*“Let the Children Come to Me”*

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 6/27/11

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus was a child. He was the son of Mary and Joseph, and Mary tells the story from her perspective how Jesus got lost on their trip to Jerusalem. Their twelve-year-old son was, in fact, not lost but was teaching in the Temple. He just didn't bother to tell his parents where he was! Jesus was a child and I am sure he gave his parents a run for their money on more than a few occasions. How do you treat children today? How does God want us to treat children?

Tuesday 6/28/11

Proverbs 1:8

As a parent myself, I like this proverb. Children ought to obey their parents. However, sometimes we as adults forget that we can also learn from children. I will readily confess that I have learned a whole lot from my children and other children in our church. Their ideas are not always my ideas, and we can learn from them! Sometimes we just have to take the time to listen to them more carefully.

Wednesday 6/29/11

Ephesians 6:1-4

Paul mentions the commandment about children obeying their parents. “For this is right,” he writes. But Paul doesn't stop here. He adds that fathers should not provoke their children. How many times do we provoke children? We might not always mean to do so, but we can provoke children in lots of negative ways. Our job is to spend some quality time with them. Many children fall astray because we just don't take the time to be with them and truly listen to their problems and frustrations. Children need to know somebody truly cares about them and time is much more precious than we realize!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

*See children as a benefit rather than an annoyance...*

*Spend some time with a child this week...*

Thursday 6/30/11  
Jeremiah 1:4-7

Children sometimes believe or were told that they are too young for something. Jeremiah believed he was too young to be called by God because he was only a boy. God did not accept this excuse. In fact, he encouraged Jeremiah to stop making his age an excuse and start working for God. Children often have to wait to reach a certain age. For example, they cannot drive until they are 16. But they are never too young to start serving God!

Friday 7/1/11  
1 Samuel 17:32-33

Children can do amazing things if we just let them. Oftentimes, however, we use the excuse that they are just too young or don't have enough knowledge or experience. Just think what would have happened if Saul didn't let David fight Goliath. Children can amaze us in some profound ways. We just have to give them the chance! Give a child a chance today.

Saturday 7/2/11  
Mark 9:33-37

One day the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. Jesus confronted them and then taught them a lesson. He put a child in front of them and said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me..." We are sometimes caught up in our own affairs much like the disciples were. After all, we do have a lot of serious responsibilities. But Jesus reminds us that we need to readjust our thinking. Could it be that when we welcome a child we are really welcoming Jesus? We used to say that youth and children are the future of our church. Jesus prefers us to say that the children are the church right now! We need to work on accepting and welcoming children in our church today. It is the right thing to do!