

TLC Summer Speaker Series

The Power of Being There

Guest Speaker: Jim Burns

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch 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. I tell you the truth, 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, put his hands on them and blessed them.” Mark 10:13-16

“He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.’”

Mark 9:36, 37

“And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.”

Mark 9:42

1. Bless them with your _____.

“Let the little children come...” Mark 10:14

- **Children regard your very presence as a sign of _____ and _____.**

2. Bless them with your _____.

“And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

UCLA Researchers tell us that the average person needs 8 to 10 meaningful touches a day in order to thrive emotionally.

3. Bless them with your _____.

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37

- “Untended fires soon become nothing but a pile of _____.”
 - “Fatigue makes _____ of us all.” - Vince Lombardi

Daily Meditations

This week’s memory verse:

“And Jesus said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.’” Matthew 18:3-5

Monday

Look back over your notes from last weekend. What is one point that stood out to you and why?

Read Mark 10:13-16. Write down three great things about being a child. How does a child’s faith tend to differ from an adult’s? How have you seen that in your life?

What was Jesus’ attitude towards children? How would you describe your attitude towards children? What can you learn from Jesus?

Thank God for the joy of watching the children around you live life. Ask God to give you a humble spirit willing to learn from them. Pray for the children in your life and ask God to use you to minister to them.

Tuesday

Read Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 28:20, Mark 10:14. Why do you think presence such an important part of relationships? Why is it especially important with children?

What do these verses tell you about God’s presence with you?

Write the names of five key relationships in your life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Look back over those five names and spend some time honestly evaluating your presence in those relationships. Write down the things that are right about those relationships and at least one way you can be more present in that relationship.

Thank God today for the relationships you have. Ask Him for creativity in your relationships and a commitment to increase your presence.

Wednesday

Read Numbers 6:24-26, Psalm 115:11-13 and Mark 10:16. Affection and affirmation are so important. How much affection and affirmation did you receive as a child? How has that impacted how you share affirmation and affection with those in your life?

What are your strengths when it comes to affirmation? How can you put those strengths to use this week?

Read Ephesians chapter 1. What affirmations from God to you do you see in this passage?

How does knowing what God thinks of you help you in your affirmation of others?

Thank God today for His immense love for you. Thank Him for His affirmation of you. Ask Him to give you the courage to reach out and affirm those you interact with today.

Thursday

Read Matthew 6:19-21 & Mark 9:37. What advantages do adults have over children when it comes to thinking ahead? What advantages do children have?

Think about the relationships you have with the children in your life. In what ways are you building into them spiritually?

Are there any “untended fires” in your relationships that need to be dealt with before they turn to ashes? What will you do to tend to those this week?

Thank God today for the future He has guaranteed for you. Thank Him for the opportunity you have to make a difference for eternity in someone’s life. Ask God to give you the patience and foresight to build for eternity.

Friday

Read and mediate on Romans 8:28-39. Write down what this passage says to you about God’s presence with you and the difference that can make in your life.

Thank God today for His presence and His power. Pray that your relationship with Him will have a positive impact on your relationships. Ask God to give you opportunities to affirm and show affection to those you encounter today.

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend and for our guest speaker Craig Barnes. Thanks!