

INVEST + INFLUENCE = MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Select Passages • May 23, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

Upcoming Sermon Series Overview

CHARACTER LESSONS

May 30, 2010	Esther – “Seize the Opportunities”
June 6, 2010	Jonah – “Second Chances”
June 13, 2010	Ruth – “Keys to a Great Friendship”
June 20, 2010	Youth Choir Presentation
June 27, 2010	Aaron – “We Need Each Other”
July 4, 2010	July 4 th Choir Presentation
July 11, 2010	Elijah – “How To Be Bold for God”

May Daily Prayer Guides are available in the church lobby at the Information Center. You can also find daily prayer requests/thoughts at www.facebook.com/otterbeinchurch

Mark 10:13-16 (NLT) ¹³ One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Romans 3:23 (NLT) ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Romans 6:23 (NLT) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 1:12 (NLT) ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

In a George Barna study in 2004, he found...

- 43% of all people who accept Jesus do so by the age of 13.
- 64% of all people who accept Jesus do so by the age of 18.
- 13% of all people who accept Jesus do so between 18-21.
- 23% of all people who accept Jesus do so after age 21.

77% of all people who choose to follow Jesus make their choice before the age of 21.

- 70% of children say they were led to Christ through the influence of a friend or relative.
- 56% of those 13-21-years old say they were led to Christ through the influence of a friend or relative.

The large majority of children and a majority of teens/young adults say a friend or relative influenced them more toward a relationship with Jesus than simply listening to someone they didn’t have a relationship with teach or talk about the Bible.

In another recent study, it was noted that...

- Approximately 75% of kids stated that their parents had the greatest influence on their spiritual lives.
- Approximately 30% said the church/youth group had the greatest influence on their spiritual lives.
- Approximately 30% said their grandparents had the greatest influence on their spiritual lives.

Research shows that parents have the greatest influence in the spiritual lives of their kids.

Three Biblical Truths:

1) God cares about what is going on spiritually with our kids and He wants us to _____ to influence them to begin a relationship with Jesus.

- See Mark 10:13-16, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 1:12



Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NLT) ¹ “These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, ² and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. ³ Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴ “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT) ¹ Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ² “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Psalms 78:5-8 (NLT) ⁵ For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, ⁶ so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. ⁷ So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. ⁸ Then they will not be like their ancestors—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

What do you need to do in response to today’s message?

2) God gives the _____ for teaching spiritual truths and providing spiritual care to parents.

- See Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Ephesians 6:1-4, Psalm 78:5-8

In your mind, whose job is it to teach your kids about Jesus and the Bible?

Religious life in the home is more influential than the church!

3) The Church and _____ should do what they can to partner with parents in influencing kids toward a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

What are you doing to influence the next generation for Christ?

Six practical suggestions:

- 1) Live an _____ Christian life.
- 2) _____ for the kids and parents you have a relationship with.
- 3) _____ and offer help when possible.
- 4) _____ need to help parents with the “discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.”
- 5) Look for ways to _____ kids in the community for Christ.
- 6) _____ and serve in our children and student ministries at Otterbein.

Student Ministry Opportunities:

- Prayer Team leader and members, to regularly pray for students, families and leaders within the Youth Ministry.
- Ministry Team leader, for those with special talents in music, drama, media, etc. to direct a team of students.
- Large Group Hosts and Small Group Leaders for Sunday mornings on campus.
- Small Group Hosts and Small Group Leaders for mid-week during the school year in homes.
- Companions for special events and activities.
- Ministry Resource Support, lending vans, boats, tents, etc. for special events.

Children’s Ministry Opportunities:

- Kid’s Kconnect volunteers who provide care and oversight to kids and interact with them while their parents attend Sunday School or worship.
- Shepherds (teaching is not required) who serve as small group leaders with children and encourage them and facilitate discussion about what they learned during their teaching time.
- People to “team teach” on Sunday morning.
- Volunteers who will serve for 8 weeks during July and August so our regular teaching staff can have a break. No teaching is required. Just a love for kids and a willingness to help make a difference in the lives of kids.

