**Sermon Notes**

**“The Spiritual Journey of Childhood”**

**A Snapshot of life in the decade of childhood**

1. **What is happening? (Big Picture)**

Children need to develop a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

1. **What is happening? (Ground Level)**

Physically: Children are seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emotionally: Children are seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Psychologically: Children are seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Spiritually: Children are seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What are the major spiritual challenges?**

1. **Developing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Overcoming a lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from adults**

**The Bible and Children**

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 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. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Matthew 19:13-15

13 Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.”

**Counsel to Parents**

1. **Parenting is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*”Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* Galatians 6:9

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ matter.**
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your child.**
3. **Keep it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: ABC’s**
4. **Be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yourself.**

*“Genuine Christianity is just as much caught as taught.”*

1. **Seek \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a childhood \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten”

Joel 2:25

**Advice to All of Us**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What fresh or “new to me” insight did you gain from Sunday’s message?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Matthew 19:13-15. Is there anything that stands out to you from these passages that hadn’t before?
3. In what ways would our church be different if Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and Matthew 19:13-15 were foundational texts for us?
4. “Genuine Christianity is just as much caught as taught.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. Take time to pray for each other. Invite each person to share two words: one that captures a positive element of their childhood, and one that expresses a negative element. Pray for each other using these words as prompts for thanksgiving and God’s healing.