

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. July 5th 2009
Empowering Children and Youth
Ephesians 6: 1 – 4 and Mark 9: 33-37



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

"The best way for a child to learn about God is to know a real Christian. The best way for them to discover the power of prayer is to live with parents who pray." Johann Pestalozzi in the early 1880's

Have a look at Ephesians 6:4 and its instructions to fathers (and also to mothers)

"bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Or as The Message puts it "Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master."

Questions that arise

1. Am I responsible for my child's choices ?
2. My children are grown up. Isn't it too late ?
3. It hasn't happened. My children do not have a faith.
4. What has this got to do with me ? My children are away from home, married and with their own families. It is not my responsibility.

But IT IS

The apostle Timothy was brought up in the ways of the Lord by his mother and his grandmother.

5. What has this got to do with me, I have no children or grandchildren ?

But we all belong to the family of God and we here in St Paul's belong to our church family. So we all have about 150 children and they are our responsibility.

6. What about children who are brought up in a household where only one parent is a believer ?

Timothy may have been in this situation. We read in Acts that "his mother was a Jewess and a believer". The Jewish community into which he was born must have been small and weak, for his mother was allowed to marry a gentile. Moreover, Timothy had not been circumcised.

Despite these difficulties the sincere faith of his mother and grandmother were shared effectively with the son and grandson.

Timothy stands out as a beacon of hope where two parents have different beliefs or none

Example is paramount. Look at the story of Caleb in the book of Joshua. Caleb was one of the two 12 spies who actually came back and urged Israel to trust God. 45 years later, when he was 85, he was still encouraging Israel to trust.

We have Calebs in our church today and rather than segregating young and old we need to expose the young to Godly older men and women. BUT what is our example to them like?



Witness: Some questions to discuss ... pick out the ones that you think most relevant

1. How can we get involved in empowering our children and young people ? Think of our example.
2. What do you feel about getting to know more of them by name ?
3. What could you do about them..? pray, find out their needs, ambitions etc..remember their birthdays ?
4. What do you think about your Home group adopting a group ?
5. How about even more practical help ?
6. How can we give extra help to those families where only one parent is a believer ? Are you in this situation ? How can the rest of us help you more ?
7. Pray for Saltmine. Pray for present leaders, more leaders, for the children.
8. Please pray especially for CYFA many of whose members are already emerging as young leaders. Pray for Crunch, an occasional evening of looking deeper into the Bible. This is for 15 to 19 year olds.