



Helping the Next Gen Win: Lessons From The Ranch

One of the commonalities between every person who ever lived and who ever will live is that we were all once children. There were experiences, circumstances and people in our childhood that helped us become the people we are today. In Part 2 of this series, we address how to make sure the children of our society win. The childhood years are absolutely critical to the type of person a child will become, as well as the hardship they will have to overcome in order to become the person that they were created to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you?

"It's not about WHAT you do, it' about WHO you are."

Share about some of the experiences you had as a child that helped make you win in life.

Read: John 3:16

Context: *John was a follower and a friend of Jesus. He wrote about many truths, some even word for word what Jesus spoke, about WHO we are rather than WHAT we are.*

- It is so natural to point out what is wrong with this generation and the upcoming generations. Take some time to talk about how **we** have contributed to that reality.
- If 85% of a child's brain is wired by age 3, how can we as followers of Jesus help shaping a child's brain to know the love of God and the truths of God's word?
- What would it look like for you to be a voice of encouragement to a parent who is trying to raise their children to follow Jesus?
- Kristie said, *"Kids need a childhood and adolescence to move smoothly into adulthood. If not, there is a failure to launch."* We all interact with a child whether they are our child or not. What can you do in your interactions with the next generation to allow them to experience being a kid?
- Kristie also said that every child needs to hear and know that they are fully known, fully loved and fully forgiven because that is how Jesus identifies us. What would it look like for you to communicate this truth to the next generation? How can you speak purpose and hope into the next generation?
- What is one thing you can do to make sure that the next generation coming up behind you knows the hope of Jesus and the purpose that God has for their life? How can this group help you do that this week?

MOVING FORWARD

All it takes is one person to speak hope into a child, teenager or adult that will forever change their life. Even in the midst of all the negative words and environments that some people are in, all it takes is one spark of hope to light a fire that will change eternity. After all, that is what Jesus did for us. He saw us as children without a Good Father. We were children who didn't have hope or a purpose. He gave his life so that we could know hope and accomplish the purpose that He created us for.. As you have experienced this act of God's love, go and share that love with a someone coming up behind you.

LIVE IT OUT

Memorize: John 3:16

Journaling: Take some time to reflect on the people who helped you win by speaking truth into your life as a child. Take some time this week to thank them.

Prayer: Pray for a child that you know you can speak truth to. Pray for their parents as they are raising them.