

Last Sunday—STRONG Fathers

Seeker after God-- in His Word, prayer, and service

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)

Teacher -- sharing God's truth in word and in deed; not timid; speak in love

"And you, fathers, do not irritate your children, but bring them up tenderly with true Christian training and advice." (Eph 6:4)

Responsible Promise-Keeper—dependable and diligent; admits mistakes

"Now if anyone does not provide for the own, and especially his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (I Tim 5:8)

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Organizer-- A manager, a problem-solver/troubleshooter "But all things must be done properly and in an orderly way." (I Cor 14:40)

Nurturer-- An encourager and challenger to Christlikeness "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut 31:6)

Good Listener—Hears with his ears and heart "The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out." (Prov 20:5)

I. Today: Coming as a child to the Lord

God is not a simple God, but He asks us to come simply to Him, to trust Him, to love Him, and let Him guide us as a gracious, loving Father guides a child. There is never a time where He doesn't want the best for you. Often, like children, we don't always trust Him when things don't go our way. Where do you need to let go and let God? How do you resist the distractions of life that makes your heart calloused before God? How can one stay childlike, but not childish? Our success in life depends on it.

"Then he [Jesus] said: I promise you this. If you don't change and **become like a child**, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven." Matt 18:3 CEV

"I promise you that you cannot get into God's kingdom, unless you accept it the way **a child does**." Mark 10:15 CEV

II. In what way, like children, are we supposed to believe and behave?

1. Children are eager learners, always asking lots of questions. Innocence.
2. Children can accept things by faith that adults would otherwise struggle with. Trusting.
3. Children often depend on others for help and advice. Humble.

III. Daniel's Childlike Belief and Obedience:

- 1) A man of conviction and courage
- 2) A man of consistency and commitment
- 3) A man of communication and consecration

IV. Questions for consideration:

- 1) What questions do you have for the Lord at this time? What's on your heart?
- 2) Why is it hard for you to trust God with uncertainty—large or small?
- 3) Is it hard for you to admit you're wrong? Does it depend on who you are talking to? What are the positive results from honest confession?
- 4) How did Daniel show his convictions when talking to those in authority?
- 5) How was Daniel able to be so consistent in his faith and perseverance?
- 6) What do you notice about Daniel's prayers? What was his view of God?
- 7) What adjustments do you need to make in your life to become a person of humility, belief, obedience, dependence, and consistency?