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## Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

*Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.*

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## Key Questions

### What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about intergenerational ministry and how our faith grows.

### Why is this sermon important?

It is important because both those who are younger and those who are older grow in their faith when they build relationships

### What is the good news?

The good news is that God loves you and God's kingdom is open to all people.

### What are the next action steps?

You are invited to build relationships across generations.

### What is the context of this sermon?

This is the third sermon in the Family Matters worship series. It is prepared with the help of Sticky Faith: Youth Worker Edition.

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## Metadata

### Topics

- Change Lives
- Grow

## Sermon Books of the Bible

- Mark

## Tags

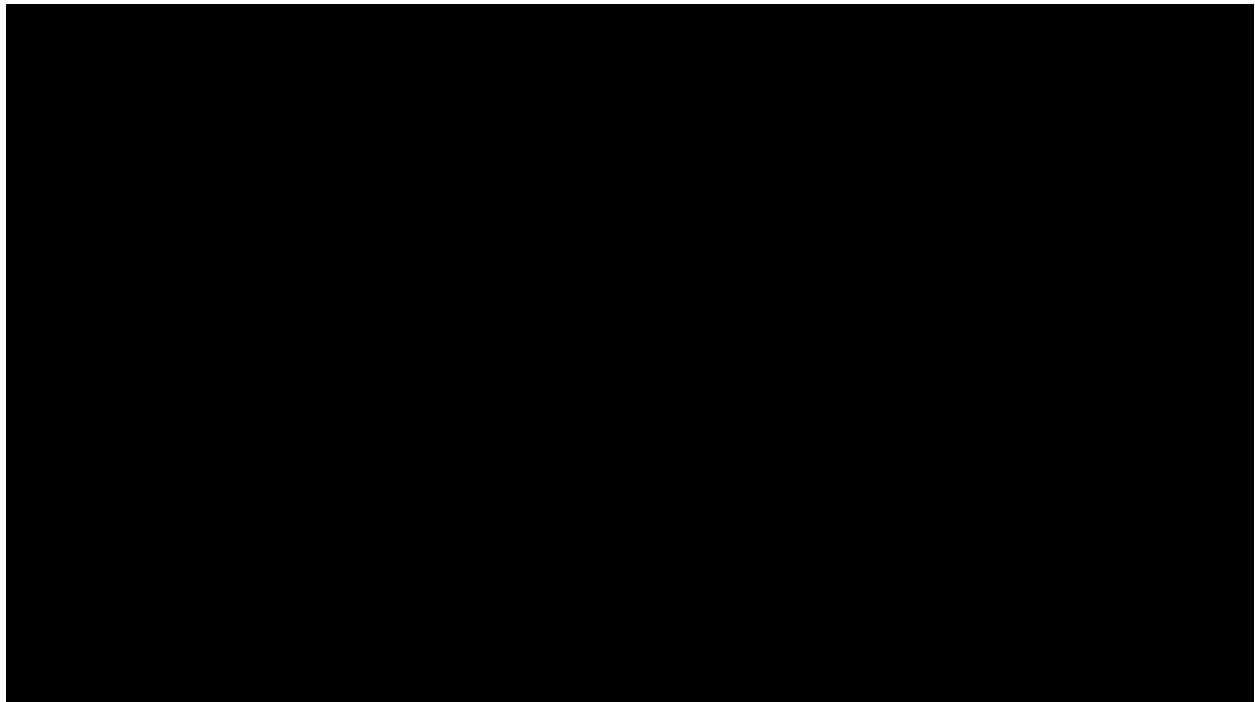
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, family, familyministry, children, youth, adults, discipleship, grow, parents

## Sermon Audio

*9 a.m. Worship*

*11 a.m. Worship*

## Sermon Video



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Response to Scripture  
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Present Day  
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**Our Vision for Children** **8**

Shape those that are younger  
Be shaped by those that are younger  
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## Introduction

### Mark 10:13-16, CEB

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. <sup>15</sup>I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

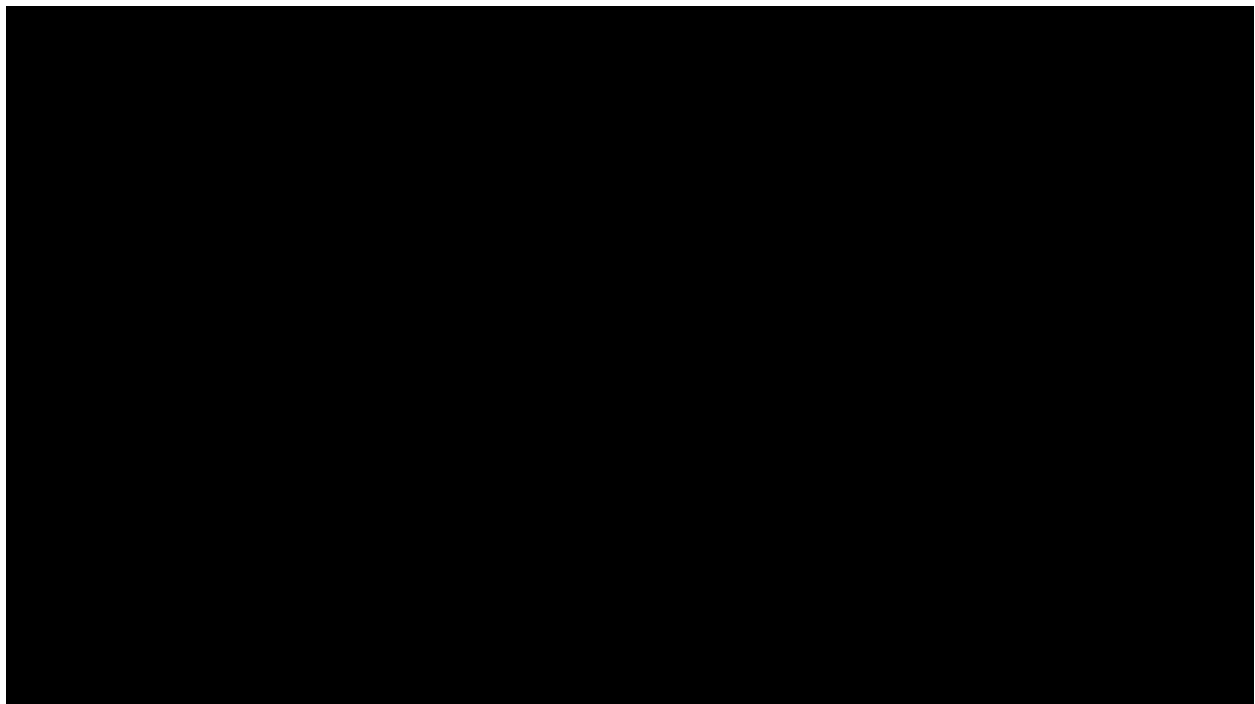
### Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



## Krause Family Reunion

Yesterday, my family and I were at the Krause family reunion in Adams, NE. We were gathered together with descendants of my great, great, grandparents - Wilhelm and Friederike Krause. Here is a picture of them

[\[Show Picture\]](#)



## Generation to Generation

*Things to Keep*

*Things to Discard*

*Our Faith*

## Family Ministry

### **Outcomes**

Our hope is to bring together the generations in our congregation and community to help both youth, adults, and children have a more vibrant experience of Christian community. We are calling this family ministry.

### **Strategies**

We have a two part strategy for family ministry:

- 1) Partner with families to help raise children in the faith
- 2) Increase connections between children, youth, and adults

### ***Transition***

To help us understand a little more about family ministry, let's take a look at the scripture passage for today.

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## **Different Visions for Children<sup>1</sup>**

In the scripture passage for today, we see that Jesus and his disciples have a different vision of what ministry with children looks like.

### ***Key Scripture - Mark 10:13***

Hear again these words from Mark 10:13:

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them.

## **Older want to connect younger with Jesus**

### ***Jesus' Day***

Will you imagine the scene with me?  
The people had seen Jesus' power.  
They had heard stories of the way that he healed people.  
Friends had told them about the way that he spoke – with such love.  
When you were around Jesus, you felt something different – something good.  
They wanted their children to have this kind of experience.  
They wanted those who were in the next generation to know Jesus.  
So, they got them out of bed, or stepped away from their daily routine to bring their family to Jesus. They brought their children to Jesus, so that he would bless them.

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*Pause*

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### ***Present Day***

Isn't that what we want too? Today in El Dorado?  
Those that are older have an experience of the life, love, and power in Jesus.  
They want those who are younger to share this experience.  
They want to spark faith that has been so meaningful to them in those that are younger.  
One generation bringing the next to Jesus.

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*Pause*

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<sup>1</sup> Following section adapted from: Kara E. Powell, Brad M. Griffin & Cheryl A. Crawford. "Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition." iBooks. <https://itun.es/us/1i75l.l>

## Disciples “protect” Jesus

### ***Jesus’ Day***

It turns out that the disciples have a different idea.  
They didn’t buy in the vision of the older generation – bringing children to Jesus.  
Of course, can we really blame them?  
Children weren’t valued much in the culture of the day.  
Jesus had important work to do.  
They were on their way to Jerusalem and Jesus kept stopping to talk to people.  
“We aren’t going to make it on time, Jesus. Come on!”

*Pause*

### ***Present Day***

Unfortunately, there may be times today that the church responds like the disciples.  
When we want to keep children and youth separated from adults...  
When we say that spiritual care for those that are younger is for someone else...  
When we don’t pay attention to the community who bring children to Jesus...

*Pause*

## Jesus Welcomes Children

As we continue in this scripture, we discover the vision that Jesus has for intergenerational ministry.

### ***Key Scripture - Mark 10:14***

Hear these words from Mark 10:14:

<sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children.

Jesus has something to say about welcoming children.  
Do it.  
Don’t keep them from me.  
God’s kingdom belongs to them.  
Jesus welcomes children and youth

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## Our Vision for Children

### **Shape those that are younger**

If this is Jesus’ response to children, we should also welcome children and youth.



If you are seeking to live your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ, someone who models their life on the life and teaching of Jesus, you have to care about the next generation.

No matter what age you are – teenager, 30s and 40s, 50s and 60s, 70 and beyond – you have a role in making sure that those that are younger have the opportunity to meet Jesus.

Your faith can shape the next generation.

*Pause*

## **Be shaped by those that are younger**

As we continue the passage of scripture, we find that this is not all...

### **Key Scripture - Mark 10:15**

Hear these words from Mark 10:15

<sup>15</sup>I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it."

Not only can our faith shape the next generation, Jesus invites our own faith to be like that of a child.

That we might welcome God's kingdom like a child.

## **God's Kingdom**

### **Jesus at the Temple**

You remember that God's kingdom began to break into world with the birth of Jesus. When he was 12 years old, he traveled to Jerusalem with his parents. On their way home, they realized that he wasn't with them. He was in the temple - in his Father's house. Life as part of the household of God was breaking into the world.

### **Jesus Announces God's Kingdom**

Several decades later, as Jesus began his public ministry, he is baptized by John the Baptist, tempted in the wilderness and then returns to Galilee

*"saying, 'Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!  
Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!'"<sup>2</sup>*

The kingdom of God.

### **Jesus' Ministry ushered in God's Kingdom**

Jesus ushered in God's reign with signs and wonders, yet his ministry only marked the beginning of the promise of the restoration of the whole creation.

<sup>2</sup> Mark 1:15, CEB.

### ***God's Kingdom Yet to Come***

As Christians, when we look to the future, we see a new heaven and earth where God's will is done completely, where the lion will lie down with the lamb, and where

.....  
*[God] will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*<sup>3</sup>  
.....

### ***God's Kingdom is already here***

God's Kingdom is not completely here, yet in some ways it is already here. In between the inauguration of the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ and its completion at Jesus' second coming, we have the opportunity to live as part of God's kingdom in the world and anticipate the fully complete kingdom of God.

We can participate in God's kingdom as it is breaking into the world.

If we believe that God's kingdom is a place of justice, we can engage in those activities that promote justice today.

If we believe that God's kingdom is a place where the poor and displaced are cared for, we can care for those who are poor and displaced today.

If we believe that God's kingdom is a place where those that young, old, and people of all ages live in relationship with one another, we can live that way today.

.....  
*Pause*  
.....

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## **Conclusion**

### **Good News**

The good news is that God loves you and God's kingdom is open to all people.

### **Call to Action**

By the power of God at work in us, we welcome others of all ages.

Two weeks ago we introduced phase cards for our families to help you know what is offered in the life of the church and how we can help you help your children grow in their faith.

Next week, we are inviting our parents and guardians to identify three people in the congregation, who are not related to them, to be prayer partners for their kids. We will ask them to pray for the child or youth every week, build a relationship with them in person and attend quarterly events together with their prayer partner.

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<sup>3</sup> Revelation 21:4, CEB.

## Invitation

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

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*And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.*  
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Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.  
Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.  
I trust you with my life.  
Help me receive your forgiveness.  
Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.  
In your holy name, Amen.