

1. Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

Which campus were you at last week? How did God speak to you through Mother Mary's story and witness? How were you prompted to see any interruptions as God's holy disruption this week?

2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read Matthew 19:14 together as a LifeGroup.

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."

As you read this passage of Scripture, what stands out to you? Spend a couple of minutes making your own observations about the Scripture and share them together as a group.

Discussion

Pastor Albert said there is something about caring for kids that is distinctive to who we are as human beings. The vernacular of our culture says we love our kids, but our actions show that we are not willing to serve kids. We learn from Jesus' interaction with his disciples in Matthew 19:14 that we cannot hinder kids from coming to Jesus. Jesus loves children, and the best thing we can do for them is to get them to Jesus.

- What stood out to you from the "sermonal interview"? What did you learn about the foster care system through Olive Crest (Rebecca and Jaime)?
 - Discuss some of the quotes and comments from the interview:
 - When a family is strong, stable, and has a foundation on Jesus, then a child can thrive.
 - We believe every life, every child has a calling, destiny and purpose in the eyes of God.
 - We have more kids in foster care in LA county than any other state in the country.

- 6/10 will end up homeless, trafficked, or incarcerated within the first year.
- The highest percentage of kids in the foster care system are African American and Latinos boys. Foster care is a feeding system for prison, and kids in this system are being prepared for institutional life.
- There are 1400 kids waiting to be adopted today in LA county.
- When they don't have a family and don't have a strong support system, they are vulnerable. People can exploit these kids.
- In Matthew 9, Jesus was *moved* with compassion. Jesus was so upset by what he saw he couldn't keep just moving on. Pastor Albert said that the culture we want to create as a church is that it's hard for us to go on with church as usual. After hearing about these injustices in the foster care system, it's hard for us to sing another song and sermon and not speak to this injustice. It should disrupt us.
- Pastor Albert said we know that these kids can't wait for us to wait. We need to respond to God's heart- not respond to the season we are in, or the capacity we feel we have, but we respond to God's heart.

3. Apply: Next Faithful Step

- Reflect on the three action steps that Rebecca and Jaime compelled us with:
 - Safe Families: Invite strangers into your home.
 - Friends: Surround around the family with burden-bearing love.
 - Champions: Content for families through prayer and resources.
- Consider coming to the Olive Crest Info Meeting on June 2nd:
 - 11am in Monrovia
 - 9am in Huntington Drive
 - 11am in Pasadena

After reflecting on this interview, what is your **next faithful step**? What might God be calling you to after engaging this message?