

Notes from the service on Sunday 12th June 10am.

Series: Confident Families

Topic: Confident Parenting

Real confidence is not something we find within ourselves if we just dig deep enough. Real confidence is found in Christ.

Hebrews 10:35

Do not throw away this confidential trust in the Lord.
Remember the great reward it brings you!

A confident Church, Confident people, confident relationships

Discussion question:

How does having confidence in Christ differ from having confidence in our own strengths?

Confident Families

Romans 8:14

New Living Translation (NLT)

v14. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children [a] of God.

Everyone who comes into the Kingdom of God through relationship with Jesus is part of his family.

We all have different experiences and back ground with family, some of those great and others maybe painful.

Discussion Question:

How can our childhood experience of family impact our ideas about parenting?

We can all be part of the family of God. The security of belonging to God's family can allow us to build and contribute to confident families.

Interview with Kevin and Sue Towns

Kevin and Sue currently have four adult children and 10 grand children with grand child 11 on the way. So their family unit consists of parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins, etc.

Discussion question:

How does this compare to God's family?

It's easier to be confident with a task when you've done it before.

How many new parents feel confident with their new role, when they arrive home with their new baby?

Sue said it was scary. She spent the first few months getting to know her baby and how to be a mother.

She sought support from other women.

Sue's tips on enjoying the baby season of parenthood were:

Enjoy the time while you have it. It doesn't last forever because they grow quickly. Don't look ahead. Don't worry about tomorrow. Just enjoy the now.

Discussion question:

What are some ways that we, as God's family, could support new parents?

How do working parents balance the pressures of their job and parenthood?

Sue was a stay at home mum. Kevin was working. He believes the home parent does it tough. He had to work out what his contribution was.

He needed to contribute when he was at home. He also had commitments apart from work that took up some of his time. He couldn't always indulge in the social and recreational activities that he enjoyed pre children.

Discussion question:

We all have a variety of commitments that demand our time, such as: family, work, God, church, recreational activities, hobbies, etc.

****How do we go about prioritising our responsibilities?***

****What are some of the things that may need to be considered?***

Primary School Years

Children are developing a personality. They are capable of behaving or misbehaving.

How do Kevin and Sue suggest dealing with misbehavior?

Reward honesty. The harshest discipline occurred when a child lied.

It is important to start teaching children basic life skills during this time. High school is too late. Also to teach children how they can contribute to the family. Kevin and Sue's children had to make their bed each day, make their school lunch, tidy their rooms.

Discussion question:

What are some ways that children can contribute to the family?

High School Years

As children get older, their responsibilities increase. Their contribution to the family widens, homework and deadlines for schoolwork are introduced, they learn about budgeting money.

Kevin and Sue's children had to get themselves up on time, manage their own homework deadlines, manage their allowance which needed to buy their school uniform, clothes, lunches, etc.

Discussion question:

How important are rules, boundaries and consequences to children's development and why?

Early Adult Years

About this time the parent /child relationship starts to change. Children have to take on responsibilities as an adult. Parents start becoming more a friend and mentor.

Children need to take risks. They need their freedom. Parents have to trust that they have taught their children the skills and values they need to make good decisions. They also need to trust God in this.

Discussion question:

How do the following play a part in confident parenting?

Leadership

Kev and Sue – Children need to understand that parents are the head of the home.

Children flourish when they have boundaries.

Submission

Kev and Sue - Parents need to agree on parenting. They need to have unity. Children will see this strength.

Absence of fear – freedom

Kev and Sue - Home needs to be a safe place for children.

Correction/Discipline

Kev and Sue – parents need to establish that there are consequences of misbehaviour. Poor behaviour needs to be dealt with quickly, then it is over. Following through is important. If you don't follow through on warnings, the child knows they can get away with it.

Affirmation/Love

Discussion question:

What comparisons and differences are there between how we confidently parent our children and how God parents us as his children?