
Equipping the Next Generation (and the Leaders who Serve Them) – Week 1

JESUS, LITTLE POEMS AND PLAYING WITH LEGOS

Matthew 18:1-6; 10-14; 19:13-15

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: This morning, we begin a new series in conjunction with our capital stewardship campaign called *Equipping the Next Generation*. The title may sound familiar! For the past three years, we've used the phrase *Transforming the Next Generation* as the title, *and the heart*, behind our last stewardship campaign which led to the construction of our new building. Now that construction is complete, we realize that God has blessed us abundantly beyond what we asked or thought. We're grateful! But we desire to excel still more. By his grace, we're asking Him to use us *significantly* to equip kids to go the distance in their relationship with Jesus. At the same time, we aim to equip moms and dads to lead wisely in a world that makes parenting a huge challenge. We start this morning by looking at Jesus' relationship with kids in the gospels. With consummate beauty, Jesus modeled the value of ministry to kids, and he set a pattern for us. Jesus wants us to invest in children who will take the baton of truth into the next generation. In our family, and with my kids, it started on the floor with Legos and little poems. I'll start with that story and then show you how Jesus did something equivalent.

1. Jesus' heart for the little children

Matt. 18:1-5; 19:14

2. Idea

3. Takeaways