

# 克利夫蘭華人教會

## Cleveland Chinese Christian Church

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### Youth Pastor Letter January 2017

Dear Church Family,

Every Christian parent wants their children to know and love Jesus and how can they know and love Jesus if they do not know and love His Word? It is good and right to read the Bible with your children and it is good and right to expect your children to read the Bible on their own. It is also good and right to share your love for God's Word with your children too. However, we can't force our kids into the kingdom of God and we can't force them to love Scripture. So, what can we do as parents to help cultivate a love for God's Word and for God himself in the lives of our kids?

#### **Recognize that we can't force our Children to love Jesus**

We can't force our kids into the kingdom of God. That is not our job. It's actually the Holy Spirit's job, not ours. It is the Holy Spirit's job to make your children love Jesus and love the Bible. And it's his job to do that in your life, too. You can trust Him to do His work.

Your child's response to the Word of God doesn't define you as a parent. While Scripture makes no promise that every godly parent who follows Christ will have godly children who follow Christ, Scripture is clear that God is at work in your child's life. He pursues him or her. And whether your child realizes it or participates in it, God is using your child's life for His ultimate glory.

Your child's life is a part of a grander story that points in some mysterious way to the day when every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

#### **Pray for your children all the time.**

Pray for your child all the time, not just during devotions. And don't pray the "guilt prayer" while seated around the table: "God, help these children stop messing around. Help them to sit still because you love kids who listen." Rather, pray like Paul prayed. Ask God to help your kids come to know his unfathomable love for them and that they would consequently come to love His Word.

#### **Teach your kids what the Bible is actually about.**

Don't make the Bible out to be a book of rules to follow and behaviors to change. The Bible is not just a book about morality. The Bible is the story of God's unrelenting, redeeming love for sinners. Do your children know that? Do you know that? Or have we reduced God's Word to a bunch rules and regulations?

Simply put, trust God when it comes to helping your kids understand and love the Bible. He's the help you're looking for. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or prayer requests, please contact me at [jmlilley@clevelandccc.org](mailto:jmlilley@clevelandccc.org).

In Christ,  
Pastor Jonathan Lilley