

Three Questions Every Kid Needs Answered

Will You Be There for Me?

An infant is born completely vulnerable and depends on the nurture and care of others. Presuming their physical and nurturing needs are met, the child begins life with confidence. However, no parent seems to ever quite get it right. Somewhere, some time along the line the parent won't be there when the child expects them and in a few short hours or even just a few minutes and the child moves from loved to fearful, from feeling secure to feeling abandoned. And from that moment on they live with a deep dread, an uneasy feeling that life isn't safe. So there, just under the surface, is a constant questioning: Will you be there for me when ...

Matthew 18:1–3, 10–14

1. Why did Jesus elevate the treatment of children?

(a) They had no _____.

(b) Because _____ depends on our children.

2. If they don't believe _____ will be there for them, they won't believe _____ will be there for them.

3. Don't be an _____ parent.

4. _____ from day one.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- Am I building or eroding trust?
- Do I consistently keep my word?
- Am I a model of the faith to my children, grandchildren, and family?

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further Three Questions Every Kid Needs Answered

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-3, 10–14

Introduction: Will you be there for me when ... ? That's a question every child needs answered over and over and over again. It's probably the most important trust-building question that a child ever asks, even though they may never ask it aloud. But that question doesn't go away as we get older. We're still just a tad unsure of the future ... will our family be there for us? Will our spouse be there? Will God be there? And though we can reassure ourselves that of course they'll be there for us, underneath it all we're tacitly aware that every relationship on earth comes to an end. Someday we won't be there for our children. Someday our loved ones may not be there for us. And doubt creeps into our heart, our mind, and our soul.

1. Are you more of a trusting person or a distrusting person?
2. Tell about the first time you remember your parents "not being there" for you. How did that color your world?
3. Read Matthew 18:1–3. What characteristics of a child do you think Jesus was referring to when he told his disciples they needed to become like a child to even enter the kingdom of God (let alone to be great in the kingdom)?
4. Read Matthew 18:10–14. What are some of the ways we "despise" our children?
5. Dr. Bill suggested that the parable of the wandering sheep illustrates the question, "Will you be there for me?" What do you think this says about God? What do you think it says about you?
6. Have you ever wandered away from the fold? What was it like to be an outsider?
7. What are some things that can be done to restore trust when it's been broken?

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?
