

Christian Practices
Session 3: How Children Feel about Self and Others

Resources

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| Audience | This class is designed for parents of children ages 3- 11 |
| Setting | Sunday afternoon Lunch and Learn Series |
| Time Frame | Approximately 1 hour class, 12:15 – 1:30 |
| Environment | Fellowship Hall, round tables, chairs, dry erase board, CD player, DVD player and TV |
| Leader Preparation | Bring copies of invitational liturgy, laptop, butcher-block paper, and markers. |
| Study Focus | Encountering the Way Children Feel About Themselves and Others |

Invitation

One: Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children...

Many: We will recite them to our children.

One: and talk about them when you are at home...

Many: We will talk about them when we are at home.

One: and when you are away...

Many: We will talk about them when we are away.

One: when you lie down...

Many: We will talk about them when we lie down.

One: and when you rise...

Many: We will talk about them when we rise.

One: Bind them as a sign on your hand...

Many: We will bind them as a sign on our hand.

One: fix them as an emblem on your forehead,

Many: We will fix them as an emblem on our forehead.

One: and write them on the doorposts of your house...

Many: We will write them on the doorposts of our homes.

One: and on your gates.

Many: We will write them on our gates.

All: When our children ask us in time to come, we will say...¹

¹ Adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20 (NRSV).

Today our focus will be on exploring children's psychosocial development. Over the next few weeks, we will be applying our understanding of children's cognitive and psychosocial development to prayer, healing, worship, and Bible study with children. These acts (prayer, healing, worship, and Bible study) are a nice introduction into Christian practices.

Encountering Psychosocial Development

We are going to watch two four minute videos on Erik Erikson's theory on psychosocial development: *Erik H. Erikson: A Life's Work* and *Vygotsky's Developmental Theory: An Introduction*. The first film is narrated by Dr. Margaret Brenman Gibson, the first woman to be appointed as a full professor at Harvard in clinical psychology and the second film is narrated by Dr. David Elkind. Pay particular attention to the Initiative versus Guilt stage.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtlKXofxT-4&feature=related>

Responding Out Of

After the first film ask:

What was Erikson's overarching concern?

What are the implications of Erikson's overarching concern on Christianity?

What were some of the characteristics of this stage?

What might be some of the implications of this emotional developmental stage on prayer, healing, worship, and Bible study?

Encountering Psychosocial Development

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx84h-i3w8U&feature=Playlist&p=9ACAF5ECEFF4151B&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=25

Responding Out Of

After the second film ask: Using Vygotsky's understanding of social development, what ideas for practicing prayer, healing, worship, and Bible study with children can you come up with?

Closing Prayer

May God grant to us the wisdom, strength, and heart to guide and nurture by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging the children of God to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ.

This series of lessons was prepared by Union-PSCE student Kim Lee, MACE, Fall 2009.