

Sermon Questions for Life Groups
Investing in the Next Generation
(Josh. 14:6-1; 15:13-19)

Rev. Jakob Koch

Sunday, February 12, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. What are your hopes for the Family Ministries Division, and for the candidate being set forward?
What areas would you like to see this office focus on, initially?
2. Our speaker said that simply protecting and providing for a child is equivalent to treating them like a pet.
 - a. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
 - b. How do we try to shelter our children or new believers from the world?
 - c. Do we ever go to far in our efforts? If so, what is the result?
 - d. How can we challenge them to see that God is faithful in all situations in a responsible and loving way?
3. How can we facilitate the concept of passing on our faith in God to our children and grandchildren when society appears to be doing everything possible to undermine the Christian faith in Canada?
4. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-4 and discuss the following:
 - a. How does Paul show that he has faith in Timothy's abilities and training?
 - b. How does Paul provide opportunities for growth?
 - c. Why does he pray that Timothy will be given **grace**, **mercy** and **peace** in particular?
5. Read Numbers 13: 30 – 33; contrast this passage with I Samuel 17: 34 – 37 regarding David and Goliath. Share any "David" moments in your life and any of the "10 Spies" moments – what happened and how would you do things differently if applicable?
6. What parallels are there between what the 10 spies reported and our present age? What giants are there in your world? (Interestingly, Jakob Koch did mention that "selfishness" could be construed to be a Giant; any others?) How do you react to them?

7. Discuss Jakob's statement that knowledge without accompanying experience is a recipe for disaster.
8. Referring to Judges 3:7-11, Jakob pointed out that a new generation was brought back to serving God because of the faithfulness of Caleb's son. What signs of rebirth in the Christian church do you see today?
9. What is the “balance” between exercising faith and looking at a situation with a pragmatic view, in other words, how do we determine that a decision or action is truly of God’s will, or can we?
10. Jacob shared the encouraging news that despite the failures of the current church there is a new generation of faithful leaders evolving. Consider what we might do to inspire and support this next generation right here in our own community?
11. This theme is present all through the Bible, from Moses raising up Joshua, to Christ training the disciples to spread the message about His life, death and resurrection. Think of your own conversion and how you have been discipled on your journey with Christ...
 - a. Are there any believers who have raised you up and given you motivation and / or tools to become a better disciple of Christ?
 - b. Can you think of times that you could have stepped out in faith, but neglected to do so and regretted it?
 - c. Can you think of any younger or newer believers in your life into whom you could pour? How could you challenge them and provide opportunities for them to see God’s faithfulness at work?
12. Please read Judges 3: 7 -11; the story of how the Lord through Othniel raised up a new generation to reach out to and restore a broken generation. As you pray for the next generation at West Highland, what are some specific prayer requests that we can offer to God?