

## BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

### 12.6/7.08 // THE BEST GIFTS FOR KIDS: The Gift of Time KIDS NEED YOU MORE THAN THINGS.

#### // Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1:** Can you remember any present you received for Christmas in 2006 (just 2 years ago)?

**Option 2:** Do you think you were spoiled as a kid? Why/Why not?

#### // Questions for Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider money or time more valuable to you? Why?

Providing for our children is important, but it isn't nearly as crucial as many seem to think. Enough *really* is enough. What other kinds of "poverty" may people experience besides financial that can produce emptiness and misery?

Do you think most kids are too busy or too lazy today? Why?

In what ways do you think children are "in a hurry" to grow up?

Corrie ten Boom said, "If the devil cannot make us bad, he will make us busy." How do you know when you're "too busy"?

The Greek word for chronological time is "chronos" — a quantity of time; while the word "kairos" means a "special" time — a quality of time.

**Galatians 4:4 says,**

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman....

**All of time had been building up to that moment. In what ways historically or spiritually do you think Jesus came at the perfect "kairos"?**

**Why do you think God's plan was to enter this world as a child himself?**

**We are continuously telling our children how to change and what to do. What do you need to change so that you are leading and setting a good example for our children?**

**Read Matthew 18:2-4**

2He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

4Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**How can you show children that they are an important part of the body of Christ?**

**Read Matthew 18:5** "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

**What can you do make certain you do not put barriers in front of children?**

**Read Matthew 19:13-14**

Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Have churches placed too much or too little value on children's ministry?

In what ways do you think churches throughout history and today have neglected the priority of children?

In what ways are children and teens the church of tomorrow? In what ways are they the church of today?

## // Application\_\_\_\_\_

How can you change the world—one child at a time?

Remember to participate in "Counter Cultural Christmas: A Revolution of Compassion for Kids" - do one or two or all three of these:

Provide gifts for local children (ornament tree at church)

Give financially for international children's needs (special offering this coming weekend).

Adopt a Compassion child.

Volunteer to serve in children's ministry at one of the 3 services.

With 2,160 hours in a 90-day period, would you be willing to serve 6 of those hours in children's ministry (one service, once per month)?

Donate hair for Children with Hairloss this Sunday, 3 PM

## // Prayer\_\_\_\_\_

Pray to have close, loving families.

Pray that you understand God's Word and how we are to spend time with our children.

Pray for the children Downriver and around the world/