

Spurgeons
Churches
Network



Home Study Group



Caring for Children and Families in Need



Theme:

- Reflecting God's Heart for Children and Families
- Session Length: 60-90 minutes
- To explore biblical teachings on caring for children and families, be inspired by the compassionate work and teachings of Charles Spurgeon, and reflect on practical ways we can support children and families in our communities.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Invite someone to open in prayer.

Ask God to soften our hearts, just as Charles Spurgeon was moved with compassion for orphans and vulnerable families. Pray for insight to see children as Jesus sees them—precious, valued, and deeply loved.

"We are to be imitators of Christ, and if we are so, we shall sympathize with Him in His great love to the lambs of the flock."
— Charles Spurgeon

Caring for Children and Families in Need



Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Ask group members:

- Share a childhood memory where you felt cared for or protected. How has that experience shaped the way you view children today?
- Why do you think strong, loving families are important for a child's development and faith?
- Reflect: Spurgeon often called children the "hope of the future." How do we live that truth today?

Bible Reading (5 minutes)

Key Passage: Mark 10:13-16 (NIV)

"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these... And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them, and blessed them.'

Ask someone to read the passage aloud.

"There is a tenderness about the love of Jesus for children which we cannot too much admire. He carries the lambs in His bosom." — Charles Spurgeon

Discussion Questions (30 minutes)

1. What does this passage reveal about how Jesus valued children?

- Spurgeon often highlighted Jesus' affection for the young, saying, "He did not merely tolerate children; He welcomed them with open arms."

2. Why do you think Jesus said the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these?

- Reflect on Spurgeon's thought: "A child's trust and simple faith is what we all must learn to enter the Kingdom."

Caring for Children and Families in Need



3. Charles Spurgeon founded the Stockwell Orphanage out of a deep conviction to care for the fatherless.

- What do you think are the biggest challenges families face today in raising children?
- How does Spurgeon's example challenge us to step into these spaces of need?

4. How might God be calling us to support children and families in our own communities?

- Spurgeon said, "Faith works by love and purifies the heart." How can our faith inspire action for children today?

Reflection and Application (20 minutes)

Activity:

Brainstorm practical ways to support children and families in your church and local community, inspired by Spurgeon's legacy:

- Offer time or resources to parents who are struggling (Spurgeon encouraged his congregation to "be doers of the word").
- Volunteer at schools, children's ministries, or support programs (Spurgeon preached, "Let the church take care of the children, and God will take care of the church.").
- Partner with or donate to organizations like Spurgeons (the charity that continues his vision today).
- Mentor a young person; Spurgeon said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, but be sure you go that way yourself."

Personal Reflection:

Spend a moment silently asking God:

- "Lord, how can I be a blessing to children and families this week?"
- Write down one specific action you will take this week to support a child or family.
- Reflect on Spurgeon's words:

"You may speak but a word to a child, and in that child there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the Christian church in years to come."

Caring for Children and Families in Need



Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- Pray for children in need, for families who are struggling, and for those who work to support them.
- Ask God to help you be His hands and feet, just as Spurgeon sought to be when he founded orphanages and advocated for children.
- Close with Spurgeon's prayerful encouragement:

"O Lord, give us more compassion for the children! May we love them as Jesus loves them, and care for them as He cared for them."

Optional Takeaway Quote to Encourage the Group:

"The Lord sets a high value upon little children, and we must beware of despising them. We may not be able to preach a sermon, but we can wash a child's face; we may not be able to build a church, but we can feed a hungry child." — Charles Spurgeon

"If you wish to know God, you must know his Word. If you wish to grasp His power, you must see how He works by his Word. If you wish to know His purpose before it comes to pass, you can only discover it by His Word."

Charles Spurgeon



Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Birchington Home Entrance



Birchington Chapel



Bedrooms at Stockwell



The Frist Boys at Stockwell

