1. **At creation**
2. God created man. He told him to reproduce (Gen. 1:27-31).

Childhood was a part of God’s plan. From the beginning, God viewed all His creation with value, dignity, and respect—this included the children (Psalm 139:13-17).

1. TODAY: God loves His creation. The child has great value in the eyes of God. The child should be treated with dignity and respect.

***Question to ponder:*** *What value does the world place on children today? Is it the same as God placed on them?*

1. **In the times of the patriarchs**
2. The child was to receive spiritual training (Gen. 18:17-19).
3. TODAY: The child learns in the home, whether it be good or bad, by observation and direct teaching (Eph. 6:4).

***Question to ponder:*** *What are the children you teach learning in their homes about having a relationship with God?*

1. **In the period of the Law**
2. The child participated in all the major religious events, ceremonies, rites, etc. of the nation. The parents were to be ready to explain special happenings to the child
(Ex. 12:24-27; 20:5-6,12,18; Num. 16:23-35; Deut. 6:1-9; Josh. 4:1-7; 8:30-35).
3. TODAY: The child shares in all major events.

***Question to ponder:*** *Activities can either hinder or help children in their relationship with God. What are you doing to encourage children in their walk with Him?*

1. **During the Kingdom period**
2. The child was the principal victim of the spiritual decadence of the nation (2 Kings 6:24-30; 11).
3. TODAY: The children today are also victims, both spiritually and physically.

***Question to ponder:*** *How does the moral and spiritual decline affect the children you teach?*

1. **During the Exile**
2. The children suffered along with the nation for the sins of their fathers. (2 Kings 25:7-11; Lam. 2:19)
3. TODAY: World news accounts show us children suffering along with everyone else because of various tragedies.

***Question to ponder:*** *What tragedies do you see impacting the children you teach?*

1. **In the Post-Exilic period**
2. Children heard about God’s judgment on various nations. They shared the difficulties and benefits of the restoration (Ezra 10:1-5; Neh. 10:28-29; 12:43; Joel 3:1-3).
3. TODAY: Society today needs a great spiritual restoration. We are fast losing ground. Our hope for the future is reaching this generation of children.

***Question to ponder:*** *How can the Lord use you to bring about spiritual restoration to the children you teach?*