

# midtown

## M E S S E N G E R

Volume 9, Issue 24

June 14, 2026

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## Dad, Don't Kill My Donkey

By: Dan Jenkins

What parent is there who has not thought about how to shape the spiritual life of a child to be spiritual? When we first hold that child, how can we not see just how precious they are? It is far more than any physical beauty that we see, and how can we ever forget deeper thoughts? They are so pure, so innocent and so naive about all that lies ahead.

You hold them and prayerfully ask God to help you mold and shape their lives. When you honestly look at yourself you feel inadequate. There are books to read, doctors to heal them, teachers to school them, sports coaches to help them excel in sports and computer programs to Google and find how to rear them physically, but where can you find how to mold and shape their lives?

You watch the child as he grows and wish there was a manual to give you all the answers about spiritually helping them grow. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a book entitled, "Seven Steps to Raising Godly Children," that would give you all answers with easy rules to just follow to do this? Think of how that would solve the problems you face! Where is that book? Where can you buy it?

There is such a book, but it is not one you can quickly read and find those seven easy steps. Early in that book, you read these words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command

you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up..." (Deut. 6:4-6). It begins with your relationship with God and your children watching you every day. They will soon see more than your actions. They will sense something so much deeper coming from your heart and your soul. It is not just actions but something far deeper. It is not just telling them the "rules" God has but attaching spiritual meaning to what He says and what you are doing.

Children who left Egypt then walked through the Red Sea, felt the ground tremble at Mt. Sinai and heard the voice of God speak from heaven. They were there in fact. Not just at that mountain but walking with Jesus in His life. We can walk with Jesus, not in fact but in faith, and faith is tied to talking about God whom they have heard so much about from infancy.

Next week, we will get specific about how to talk to children about the Bible. Read Exodus 13 and discover the answer to a Jewish boy who asked his father, "Why did you just kill that baby donkey by breaking its neck?" Knowing the answer to this will help you rear your child. More next week.

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# Spiritual Growth: Add Godliness

By: Selected

As we grow in faith, discipline and endurance, Peter next instructs us to “add... to perseverance godliness” (2 Pet. 1:6). Godliness refers to a life that is centered on God—a reverent, devoted way of living that seeks to please Him in all things. The word carries the idea of a “God-ward attitude,” where one’s conduct flows from a deep respect for and devotion to the Lord. What a beautiful thought!

This is more than outward religious behavior. It is possible to appear godly while lacking true devotion. Scripture warns about those who have “a form of godliness but deny its power” (2 Tim. 3:5). Jesus also cautioned against practicing righteousness merely to be seen by others (Matt. 6:1; 23:5). True godliness is different. It is not about impressing people—it is about pleasing God.

Jesus perfectly demonstrated this attitude. He said, “I always do those things that please Him” (John 8:29). If we are to follow Christ, we must adopt that same desire. Godliness shapes not just what we do, but why we do it.

This quality is essential for several reasons. First, it is necessary to truly be a disciple of Christ. We cannot follow Christ while living for ourselves or seeking the approval of others (Gal. 1:10). Our aim must be to please God.

Second, godliness is profitable in every way. Paul wrote that it holds promise for both the present life and the life to come (1 Tim. 4:7-8). It affects how we live now and prepares us for eternity. This demands vigilant attention.

Third, godliness is a source of spiritual

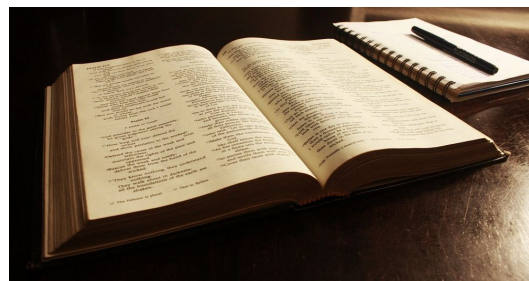
strength. When we live to please God, He works in us and strengthens us (Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 3:16). There is power in a life devoted to Him.

So how do we develop godliness? It requires intentional effort. As physical health requires exercise, spiritual growth requires discipline (1 Tim. 4:7-8). We must give attention to reading God’s Word, applying it and using our abilities in His service.

It also requires removing distractions. Paul urges believers to flee things like materialism, pride and empty disputes, and instead pursue righteousness and godliness (1 Tim. 6:6-11). We cannot grow in godliness while clinging to worldly priorities.

Most importantly, godliness requires proper motivation. Our goal must always be to glorify God—not to gain recognition, advantage or approval from others. When our motive is right, our actions will follow.

Godliness is demonstrated in a life that consistently seeks to honor God—in attitude, conduct and purpose. It ensures that our faithfulness is directed toward the right goal: pleasing God in all things.



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## Upcoming Events

Today, June 14: Monthly youth devo here at the building after evening service. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Saturday, June 20: If you have a birthday in May or June, you and your family are invited to celebrate at the McCoys house (104 Oxford St.) from 2-4pm.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rieke Bass who will be receiving test results on her procedure.

Steve Randle will be having surgery on Wednesday morning.

### Summer Series Wednesday Night Classes

Every Wednesday night during the Summer session, the Adults will be learning about "Questions Jesus Asked" and the Children will be learning about "Biomimicry: God invented it First". Please join us at 7pm.

### VISITORS:

Thank you for visiting today. Please take a moment to scan this QR Code to fill out a visitor card. We would love to have a record of your attendance.



## Service Roster

Week of June 14, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson  
Song Leader..... Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries  
Closing Prayer..... Ron White

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Kevin Sheeran  
Cup..... Randy D'Herde  
Offering..... Genesis Williams  
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs  
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Randy D'Herde

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries  
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/  
Willie Fossati

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Ron White  
Song Leader.....Randy D'Herde  
Devotional.....Ron White

### Other

Prepare Communion for June.....Rosales

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

James Cammock.....June 17  
Emily Cammock.....June 20

### Anniversaries

Ken & Nancy Dorries.....June 14

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email [office.midtownchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.midtownchurch@gmail.com)

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

Blessed are those who are persecuted for right-  
eousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.  
Matthew 5:10

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of June 7, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....66  
A.M. Worship.....99  
P.M. Worship.....72  
Wednesday Worship.....70

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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