

Title: Another Beautiful “IA with Children” Story

March 6, 2023

Greetings all,

Just a quick note to share another story about using the Immanuel Approach with children (excerpted from an e-mail from a father who needed help with providing play for his children):

“I had a deeply deficient childhood and did not learn to play. I became aware of this when my first child was born 12 years ago, and ever since that time I have struggled with knowing that my kids need this from me – they need me to be able to play with them, and to help them learn how to play.

Since discovering your work a couple of months ago, I’ve been experimenting with several different Immanuel Prayer ideas with my kids. (We try our Immanuel experiments/adventures at bedtime, when they are less energetic and more settled.) With my 4 and 6 year old daughters, I coach them to imagine themselves inside a positive memory, I help them to remember what they were seeing and smelling and hearing and tasting and feeling on their skin, and then I coach them to ask Jesus to show up. He always does.

And every time Jesus shows up in my daughters’ happy memories, He plays with them. Often He’ll join them in playing with dolls, and other times he’ll invent a game and play that with them. Then after a while, I ask them if Jesus has anything to say to them. Usually they get one phrase. Usually about something I didn’t even realize they needed until He says it. And then almost always Jesus says He looks forward to playing with them tomorrow.”

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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