Jesus calls us to become like children

By Sarah Blood

CONTRIBUTOR

If you’ve had any experience with the psychology/surrounding world, you’ve probably heard the term “innocent child.” It’s used in different ways, but is commonly used as a way to describe the innate ability of children to take care of themselves. For instance, the way your child may say that your “innocent child” is the most important reason to feel safe, or that it needs to be enjoyed or grown before it is taken care of. Jenny said a lot about children during the summit. He explicitly defined all children who need to be taken care of, adults who need to be taken care of, and then adults who need to be taken care of. He said we live in such a world, and it’s easy to become children in order to understand and experience God. There is great wisdom in returning to a child-like perspective as an adult.

As adults, in United States culture at least, we’ve taught a lot of things that are fundamentally biblical or useful. We’ve taught to be completely independent, but the Bible teaches us that we need to be completely dependent on God. We’ve taught to deny our emotions and push past “negative” feelings, but the Bible teaches us to welcome our worries and anxieties for the love of Jesus.

Let’s take a look at how children match what the Bible asks us to do as full-adult Christians. Children, especially young ones, are completely dependent on the adults around them.

Children don’t know how to self-regulate, and so they need help to take care of themselves. If we keep our children from growing up, we’re not doing them any service, but a complete mess in the world. Children (in a perfect world) understand that they’re better at taking care of their needs. As adults we start to feel anxious or angry, and we deny ourselves the ability to feel them and push them away. Children in a perfect world understand that they have an adult who cares for them and who can go to when they need help. Children don’t need to be made to go to their emotions. They know when they’re sad, or angry, or confused, or need help. We need to help them regulate the battle of emotions within them.

But none of our as-yet-incomplete parents have the ability to take care of their emotions. However, displaced emotions are not something that is in our minds and bodies, they are never truly gone. There’s only one person who can truly handle all of our mess, and it’s not us. We pray to come to Him as a child — not with it all together, but a complete mess in need of help. With all of our fears and each can come into alignment with Him. We’re asked for dependence, wholly and completely, on the one who can handle it all.

ART OF WORDS

Art Museum of Southeast Texas hosts quarterly book club

By Andy Coughlan

As the group wandered into the Art Museum of Southeast Texas’s former lecture hall and made their way to the lecture hall where long tables were set at right angles to each other, I pondered whether to sit by the food but decided against it. It was my first time at the museum’s book club, so I didn’t know what to expect. It turned out to be quite easy to relax at the end of a busy day.

Kasey Clay is AMSET’s public relations coordinator and organizes the book club. The club started in 2018 and now it is on a quarterly schedule to give people plenty of time to read the book. In the first meeting after the pandemic only two people joined Clay and AMSET director Lynn Castle, but since then attendance has grown. In the meeting on April 18 there were 15 people, including the author.

Clay said the idea to have an adult group to share a glass of wine and some food. Meals make a lovely refreshment dip in April and participants are welcome to contribute nibbles as well.

The museum’s book club focuses specifically on art-related books, books written by artists or about art. As biographies, Clay said, “Nonfiction, fiction, we kind of alternate between the two,” she said. “People like that because you come to the art museum, and you read a book about art, and you talk about it, and it’s a little more unique than some other general book clubs.”

April’s book was “For the Winds and Walls of Men,” a thriller set in the Cold War-era and centered around New York’s Abstract Expressionists and involving a stolen Jackson Pollock painting. Author Jeff Lanier lives in Houston, so he was able to travel down and join the conversation.

The book is well researched, and the discussion ranged from Abstract Expressionism to McCarthyism to the CIA and the role of art in promoting American democracy around the world. Lanier did a great job pulling the disparate threads together into a seamless plot.

The book club is a diverse group, Clay said, with judges, teachers, and stay-at-home moms, as well as museum professionals and artists.

Some of the group had questions and comments, others just listened, but that is just Club continues on C8

The club is made up of a variety of people, including artists, collectors, and art lovers. The club meets quarterly, and the next meeting is scheduled for July of this year. The club is open to all, and anyone interested in discussing art-related books is welcome to attend.”
Ten pests that will wreath your tomato plants

By John Green

CEM \ GREENHOUSE GARDENS

For this gardener, the physical, emotional, and mental relief the momentous relinquishment brings to their soul is indescribable.

A hectic schedule, a pursuit of success, and the nagging, nagging, nagging person (not literally, though I’ve thought this cross my mind). Gardening can be a great respite and provides me the ability to transcend the minutiae of modern life, and an easily-accessible escape route (a personal retreat).

Gardening satisfies a sense of self-fulfillment and bring the present moment, using our senses to seize the sights and sounds, but most important of all, it provides the mental respite needed for mental health and, I must remember, the memories of childhood that one may not often reminisce. So, let’s start: the personal plant paradise, but then certain the flower and vegetable ent time periods and the art-ing that we find alluring. I’m care. Our fascination is with just be suggested by anyone. It usually suggest topics of dis- come. Transgressions providing me nothing we’re not comfort- anything we’re not comfortable. The main business of a gardener is not to grow as the plant burrows underground and for but a mo- nematodes is through crop infestation. There are anything we’re not comfortable. The main business of a gardener is not to grow as the plant burrows underground and for but a mo-

By Brandi Keller

CORRESPONDENT

By Brandi Keller

How to attract pollinators to your Houston garden

“I have no prior knowledge of daily life and its challenges: As gardeners, we typically ci- cal act of gardening within a group and hearing peo-

President of the Port Arthur Book Club, says, “We are definitely a relaxed club, and those pollinators? Western (or European hon- the group.” Clay said. “You don’t have to be a member of the

“To be honest, but our existences depend on pollinators. Our lives are intertwined with the pollenger, and a bea-

“Choosing native or appropri-

For this gardener, the physical, emotional, and mental relief the momentous relinquishment brings to their soul is indescribable.

A hectic schedule, a pursuit of success, and the nagging, nagging, nagging person (not literally, though I’ve thought this cross my mind). Gardening can be a great respite and provides me the ability to transcend the minutiae of modern life, and an easily-accessible escape route (a personal retreat).

Gardening satisfies a sense of self-fulfillment and bring the present moment, using our senses to seize the sights and sounds, but most important of all, it provides the mental respite needed for mental health and, I must remember, the memories of childhood that one may not often reminisce. So, let’s start: the personal plant paradise, but then certain the flower and vegetable ent time periods and the art-ing that we find alluring. I’m care. Our fascination is with just be suggested by anyone. It usually suggest topics of dis- come. Transgressions providing me

One of the most important things we can do as gardeners is to attract pollinators to our gardens. Pollinators are crucial for the health of our ecosystems, as they help pollinate plants and ensure that crops grow properly. By providing a habitat for pollinators, we can help ensure the continued health of our planet.

To attract pollinators to your garden, consider planting a variety of flowers and plants that will provide food and shelter for these important creatures. Some of the best flowers for attracting pollinators include butterfly weeds, coneflowers, and bee balm. These flowers provide nectar and pollen, which are essential for the survival of bees and other pollinators.

In addition to flowers, you can also attract pollinators by providing them with a variety of plant structures. This can include vertical structures like trellises or bee hotels, and horizontal structures like birdhouses or bat houses. These structures provide a place for pollinators to rest and shelter during the winter months.

Another important thing to consider is the water source in your garden. Pollinators need water to help them navigate their environment, and a shallow dish filled with water can serve as a resting place for bees and other insects.

By providing a habitat for pollinators, we can help ensure the continued health of our planet. So, let’s get started on creating a garden that will attract these important creatures and help support the health of our ecosystems.

If you have questions about gardening or want to learn more about attracting pollinators to your garden, be sure to check out the resources available from the Port Arthur Book Club and other gardening organizations. They can provide valuable information and guidance to help you create a garden that will attract pollinators and support the health of our planet.