To the Ends of the Earth: Week 2 — "Protecting Children"

CONNECT: What's the funniest thing you've heard a kid say?

GROW:

1. Read **Mark 9:36–37** and **Mark 10:13-16**. What can we learn from Jesus' words about children in these two passages? Why does He place such a high value on them?
2. What have you learned about God from being around children?
3. Whether you have kids of your own, you work with kids, or you're around kids in some other capacity, what does it look like for you to protect them? What challenges have you faced in doing that?
4. What stood out to you about the Blackbox International documentary? Did you know about this issue before watching it?
5. We must arm children with these key truths that make up a biblical worldview:
   Who God is: *God is a good Father who loves you and wants good for you.*
   Who they are: *You are a [boy/girl] made in the image of God.*
   Why they're here: *You are here to love God and love people the way He has loved you.*
   - How are you trying to instill these truths into the lives of children and students?
   - Where do you feel like you need help doing this?
   - Who do you know who does this well, and what have you learned from them?
6. As Scott said, "If we want to charge the gates of hell, we have to begin where it has taken up residence in our own hearts and minds." If you're comfortable with sharing, what might be going on in your heart/mind that is preventing you from being able to fight against darkness?

PRAY: Pray for Blackbox International—for the protection and encouragement of their staff, and for the boys they serve to heal from their past, experience joy in the present, and find purpose for their future. Pray also for our church—that we would continue to seek after the protection of children, and that we would be honest about any darkness within ourselves and seek God for a new heart and a new spirit (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

NEXT: To learn more about the work of Blackbox and how you can pray and support them, visit blackboxinternational.org