

9-11-01

Dear Parents,

It is likely that your children will have questions and fears regarding the attack on the United States this morning. As School Counselor, I would like to offer some thoughts as well as my prayers...

1. **Children will watch how we parents handle this situation.** Hopefully, they will see us turn to God in prayer, Scripture, and each other.
2. Let us not be afraid of the difficult questions that will come, both from our children and from us. God can handle those questions. This is an **opportunity** for us and our children to solidify deep, faith convictions.
3. Let us find **tangible** ways to reach out to those who need our help. Our children will learn from us that faith shows itself in action. This is an opportunity for God's people to shine.
4. Let us remember to hug our kids a little longer, pray more fervently with them, and appreciate them in renewed ways. These events can be used by God to **increase the closeness in our families** and bond us together in His Spirit.
5. Let us not be afraid of **allowing our children to feel enough fear to draw them to God.**
6. Let us consider carefully both the age and spiritual maturity of our children as we talk to them about this tragedy. Don't be afraid of letting them see the pictures. With adult explanation (This is real!), the scenes can **develop Christian empathy** and provide a vivid picture in our hearts as we pray.
7. Listen, listen and listen. Feelings might not go away quickly.

We cannot escape the ramifications of sin in this world. We cannot move away from it, nor buy our way out of it. Sin overflows onto us all, collectively and individually. God does not remove us; he gives us the strength and hope to get through it. **He does not promise a house without storm, but a house that can withstand the storm.** There are few events that have the power to transform suburban Christians; this is one such event. Let us not minimize, ignore, or rationalize it away from our children. **Let us enter it with our arms around our children and with God at our side!**

P.S. Please join us tonight, Wed, and Thurs, at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary to pray.

Jack Lipski, M.A.

SOTHCS Counselor

(Permission to copy granted for personal use only.)