

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 6, 2020

My dear Friends:

As you are reading this, I will likely be carrying a sofa or a dining room table into one of my kids' apartments. We left this morning with a moving van and cars full of stuff that belongs to my two older children as they head back to school: Liz for her senior year at Mississippi State and Sam to begin his PhD program at Georgia Tech. And as parents do, we end up moving our kids to the next spot along life's pathway.

When you think about it, that's what parenting is. When our children are small and helpless, they rely on us for nearly everything—changing diapers, getting their food, being placed in bed. As they grow, they become more independent until they get their first on-their-own places, but even then, they need our help: “Mom, how do I set up my utilities? Dad, can you help load the moving van?”

But the most important thing they need from us is Jesus—and they don't stop needing us to point them to Jesus. Until we are separated in death, our main task as a parent (and a grandparent) is to talk to them and live before them the faith of Jesus. When they are little and they see a bumble bee, talk to them about how our good God made those bumble bees, which shouldn't even be able to fly (!), in order to move pollen around and make beautiful flowers grow. When they are teenagers and their hearts are breaking, talk to them about how God's heart breaks with and for them and how his comfort is sure and sweet. When they falter and fail and sin—sometimes in destructive ways—remind them that Jesus saves the chief of sinners and his blood cleanses from all sin. And when they get married or have their first child, remind them that Jesus is a good King and a faithful friend who will bind our hearts with his love.

That's what this August conference is about ultimately: our generational joy of telling our children and grandchildren about Jesus. That will shape us and them as we parent and discipline and encourage and support and guide and direct. And move furniture too.

I hope you will take advantage of these August sessions, especially next week, when Jason Cook, the Germantown campus pastor for Fellowship Memphis, will be with us. On August 22, we will have Dr. Mark Dalbey, president of Covenant Seminary, and his wife, Beth, teaching; and on August 26, Scotty Smith, founding pastor of Christ Community Church, Franklin, TN, will teach. I'm so excited about this time and trust it will be useful to us as we tell the next generation about Jesus. What joy!

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.