



Be Careful Around Lost Boys

We live in a culture of Peter Pans

Article by Jason Barney

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I. The culture of Peter Pan and Lost Boys

A. I would like to read something to you entitled, “We live in a culture of Peter Pans” [“The great Roman statesman, orator, and philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero wrote: “Not to know what happened before you were born, that is to be always a boy, to be forever a child.” In a sense, historical understanding - knowledge of what happened before you were born-is primary to all realms of knowledge.

Science is the Study of the great discoveries of the past in our knowledge of the natural world.

Literature is the study of the great writings of past culture that embody human experience in the form of story and poem.

Mathematics is the study of how great minds of the past have ordered for us the use of abstract numbers and symbol in relation to the physical world.

The arts are the studies of the varied and diverse cultural creations of the past. Historical understandings in all of these areas humanize, mature, and uplift the soul. Too many citizens of our country today are, in Cicero's terms, forever children. If knowledge of the past matures the soul, it is not something we can afford to marginalize or sideline. Unfortunately, the hard work of gaining knowledge, eloquence, and wisdom is all too often skirted by teacher and student alike. Because we have neglected knowledge of the past and the great tradition of historical understanding, we live in a culture of Peter Pans, flying free in Neverland with no past and no future, only the ever-present game, the mock battle against pirates or Indians. Wendy's stories, with their plot of real challenges to be overcome, only reveal to us our immaturity, the fact that we are forever children who won't grow up.”] (Jason Barney, Latin teacher & recipient of the Salvatori Prize for Excellence. Imprimis article, circa 2013)

Purpose of this Lesson

- Illustrate the lost nature & influence of our culture.
- Show how people turn God's plan upside down.
- Indicate the futility of negotiating & cooperating with Lost Boys.
- Remind us that this has all happened before and will all happen again.
- Encourage all to be diligent to avoid childish influence.

- B. Our culture bears a striking resemblance to Peter Pan and the Lost Boys in Neverland
1. Floating through life as adult children without a care or perspective
 2. Always immersed in the trivial while ignoring what is real
 3. Supremely self-centered
 4. Truth and God are villainized while Self-expression and tolerance are the heroes
 5. Fighting misguided wars against the bogymen of Christianity, Integrity, and Morality; and ignoring the real monsters of Sin, Irresponsibility, and False-Religion that live in their families, homes, and governments.
 6. Exciting and fun to imagine that the innocence and fun of childhood could last forever.
 7. Truly sad to see adults living their lives in childish irresponsibility and spiritual destruction

II. Purpose of the Lesson

- A. Illustrate the lost nature and influence of our culture
- B. Show how mankind turns Gods plan upside down when he tries to pave his own path to joy and fulfillment
- C. Indicate the futility in trying to negotiate, cooperate, and /or buddy-up with Peter Pan & Lost Boys
- D. Remind us that “This has all happened before, and it will all happen again.”
- E. Remind us all to be diligent.

III. Real Life Peter Pans/Lost Boys:

- A. Peter Pans Don't know the value of wisdom
 1. Old ideas have no value in our young culture.
 - a. **Proverbs 23:23** ²³**Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.**
 - b. **Psalm 19:10** **More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.**
- B. Lost Boys Don't live by a stable moral code (Godliness)
 1. Absolutes are shunned as being closed-minded and rigid
 - a. **Exodus 3:14** **God says, “I Am Who I Am”**
 - b. **John 17:17** **Jesus says of God, “Your word is truth”**
 - c. **Matthew 5:37** **Jesus says, “Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and ‘no’, ‘no’”**
 - d. **Matthew 12:33** **Jesus says, “A tree is known by its fruit”**
 2. The premise of universal unshakeable truth is rejected
 3. Right and wrong are relative to the situation and feelings



Real Life Peter Pans

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Exodus 3:14 “I Am Who I Am”

John 17:17 “Your word is truth”

Matthew 5:37 “Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’

Matthew 12:33 “A tree is known by its fruit”

C. Lost Boys are beholden to the (lost-boys/children) around them.

1. Group think/Mob mentality prevail over all sensibility and discernment
2. A thing matters because “THEY” say it matters (“likes/dislikes, trending, viral”)
3. They are servants of trends and servants of cool

a. **Luke 7:31-35** ³¹And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.’ ³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

b. **Matthew 15:14** when the blind lead the blind they will both fall into a pit.

- 1) A self-guided culture of children is destined to fail and harm many.

D. Peter Pans are selfish and self-centered

1. I am a precious snowflake and there has never been one like me before
2. I am the most important person in the world, and I deserve all good things
 - a. **Romans 3:23 (All have sinned)** The most important fact about you.
 - b. **Romans 3:24 (Jesus died to redeem sinners)** The most important thing ever done.
 - c. **Luke 9:23** Jesus said, “Deny yourself and follow Me”. Most important you do

E. Lost Boys Don’t know how to put someone else first

1. Life becomes all about self, others are excluded from consideration
 - a. **Philippians 2:5-8** ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
 - b. **Hebrews 10:24-25** ²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Luke 7:32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; We mourned to you, and you did not weep.'

**Matthew 15:14 when the blind
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1) Romans 3:23 (All have sinned)

2) Romans 3:24 (Jesus died to redeem sinners)

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F. Peter Pans do not understand the Value of human relationships

1. Life is lived with loose and empty connections to hundreds of people who are kept at distance by the internet & social media.
2. Many people have thousands of “friends” and yet no one that cares enough to tell them when they are wrong.
3. The concept of responsibility and accountability between human beings is swallowed up by the lies of remoteness, distance, and digital-disconnect
4. The net effect is that no one owes anyone else anything.
 - a. **Romans 13:8-10** ⁸ **Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - b. **Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend**

G. Lost Boys don't know how to love appropriately

1. Love has become a gift you give yourself rather than others
 - a. **Galatians 5:13-15** ¹³**For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.** ¹⁴**For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** ¹⁵**But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!**
 - b. **1 Corinthians 13** tells us that Love is not selfish
2. Love has been replaced with lust, self-serving, and sexual attraction in this world

H. Peter Pans are short sighted

1. The self-control required to invest in the future does not make sense when there is no concept of eternity.
2. **Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.**
3. **Jude 5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.**

Romans 13:8

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I. Lost Boys are irreverent

1. Holding something other than self and personal feelings in high esteem is a foreign concept.
 - a. **Jude ⁸Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.**

J. Peter Pans are unrestrained

1. Their emotions are on their sleeve
2. Their thoughts are announced out loud at once
3. Their desires are acted upon impulsively
4. **2 Timothy 3:1-5 ³But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

K. Lost Boys don't know how to suffer for a cause

1. Nothing is worth working hard or suffering over
2. Instant gratification is preferred over laboring to accomplish
3. Suffering as a whole is declared bad and unnecessary.
 - a. **2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**
 - b. **1 Peter 5:5-6 ⁵Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time**
 - c. **1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:**

Jude 8

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1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

L. Peter Pans are without understanding of their own vulnerability

1. They play with the fire of sin and do not understand that they will be burned.
 - a. **Proverbs 6:27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Proverbs 6:27-29**
2. They lay down with the lion satan and refuse to recognize that they will be devoured.
 - a. **1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**
3. Neverland is a world full of fire-eaters and lion-tamers who don't realize that they are engulfed in flame and swallowed whole by sin and death.

M. Have no concept of history and its lessons (history begins with their birth)

1. **1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (1 Cor 10:1-11)**
 - a. The mistakes and consequences of those that have preceded will have no bearing upon me while I do as they did.
 - b. "It will go differently for me, because I am different (special)".
2. "New" has replaced the age-old truths of life (as it always has)
 - a. **Ecclesiastes 1:4-11 ⁴ One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever. ⁵ The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And [a]hastens to the place where it arose. ⁶ The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. ⁷ All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. ⁸ All things are [b]full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹ That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. ¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.**
 - 1) Ignoring the wisdom of history, they are doomed to repeat the same personal mistakes that others have suffered before them.

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to his bosom, And his clothes not
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1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant;
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(context 1 Cor 10:1-11)

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3. Lost Boys miss out on salvation through childish ignorance

- a. **John 20: 30-31** ³⁰And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
- b. Cain and Able – “if you do well/if you do not do well”...
- c. God’s character is made obvious throughout man’s history
- d. If you miss out on God’s history, you miss out on God and His blessings
 - What should we expect of the Lost?

IV. What is The Antidote for Peter-Pan(ism) & Lost-Boy (ism)?

A. Mature Christianity!

1. Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts

- a. Put on Christ! Study, faith, baptism, character...
- b. Grow Up
- c. Take responsibility for yourself
- d. Own your decisions
- e. Leave childhood and childishness behind
- f. Take on Godliness with all your strength

B. Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

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Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord
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Ephesians 4:11-16

1. If you are caught up in the culture – SNAP OUT OF IT!
2. Grow up and be mature in Christ
3. Do everything you can to help other people SNAP OUT OF IT!
4. “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” (G.K. Chesterton – What’s Wrong With The World)
5. We cannot sit back as mere commentators, remarking about how ridiculous it all is. We must become involved as educators. If you don’t know how then you better learn!
6. It is our solemn duty as Christians to be educated in Godliness, to be mature, and to educate every subsequent generation of Pan & Lost Boys and call them up to maturity.
 - Don’t be guilty of finding it too difficult
 - Be careful that you don’t get lost in a culture of childish ease!

Notes:

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Philippians 3:12-16 ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule,^[a] let us be of the same mind.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Corinthians 10:13-14 ¹³For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

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(G.K. Chesterton – What’s Wrong With The World)

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- **Don't be guilty of finding it too difficult**
- **Be careful that you don't get lost in a culture of childish ease!**



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