

Childlike Faith (Luke 18:15-17)

Introduction:

The Common Viewpoints: (18:15)

Most people see Jesus as a way to get blessed or as someone only interested in “Big People.”

The Divine Viewpoint: (18:16)

Jesus has room for everyone who comes empty-handed and trusting.

The Message to Disciples: (18:17)

True disciples understand that God’s plan must be received with childlike faith and dependence.

True disciples approach Jesus with childlike faith.

Passages:

- John 3:1-14
- John 3:16-21
- Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16 (notice the differences)
- Psalm 8
- Luke 18:18-30

Next Steps:

- I will evaluate my faith to see if it is simple childlike faith or if I feel I am still bringing something to Jesus.
- I will make sure I know how to clearly present the Gospel of free grace, which can be received like a child.
- I will unclutter my relationship with God and live with simple faith.

Home Church Questions:

- Read the Passage
- Review the Message
- How does our culture view children? How has this changed in your lifetime?
- What “age” (childhood, adolescence, young adult, middle age, old age) is celebrated by our culture. Give examples.
- Read the parallel passages in the Synoptic Gospels (Mt. 19:13-15; Mk 10:13-16). What do you make of the differences in the passages?
- Tell your story of coming to faith? Were you actually a child or did you come with childlike faith as a teenager or an adult?
- What were the disciples thinking when they rebuked the crowd?
- How does this example of Jesus and children reinforce the previous parable?
- What does it mean to “receive the kingdom”?
- How do we complicate our relationship with God? How simple is it?