

1/28/2018: Walking with the Kiddos

Jesus welcomes the children

Main Passage: Mark 10:13-16

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

14 When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. 15 I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." 16 Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Repeated Story:

Matthew 19:13-15

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

14 But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." 15 And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

Luke 18:15-17

15 One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering him.

16 Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. 17 I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

Supplemental passages:

1 Corinthians 13: 11

11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.[c] All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

1 Peter 2: 1-3

So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

1 Corinthian 3: 1-3

Dear brothers and sisters,[a] when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people.[b] I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. 2 I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, 3 for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

Thesis: Jesus wants us to walk with him with childlike (not childish) faith.

Grow up:

Ask: What do you want to be when you grow up? What does it mean to "grow up?"

Adulthood: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKLEKbwHgDQ

Watch this video on "Adulthood" and then discuss the pros and cons of being a child vs. being an adult?

Icebreaker Questions:

- Share about a time when you were shooed away because you were “too little.”
- Do you have a “Kid’s table” for your large family gatherings? Why or why not?
- Who was someone you looked up to as a kid and why?

Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus attitude toward children differ from his disciples?
 - How does the parent’s attitude toward children differ from the disciples?
 - What does this story say about the significance of parents raising their children in the Christian faith (bringing their kids to Jesus)?
 - Who is this story do you feel you are most like; the parents, the kids, or the disciples? Why?
 - What do you think the disciples were thinking/feeling after being reprimanded by Jesus?
 - Have you ever been reprimanded for doing what you thought was right?
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- How do children demonstrate humble trust in Jesus? What can we learn from their trust?
 - What characteristics of a child do you want to emulate in your relationship with God?
 - What do you think it means to “receive the Kingdom of God like a child?”

Childlike of Childish?

Video Clip: *Goonies*: “our time down here”

This is one of my favorite scenes from this movie. The gang is about to give up on their quest, but Mikey gives a rousing speak with resembles the idea of childlike faith. Watch the video and discuss

- How did Mikey have faith like a child?
- How were his parents displaying “adultlike” faith?
- How did his speech encourage his friends to embrace a childlike faith?

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 11, 1 Peter 2: 1-3, 1 Corinthian 3: 1-3 and discuss the difference between “childlike” and “childish” faith.

- What might be the difference between “childlike” and “childish” faith?
- Why is it important to not have a childish faith?
- Why was Paul frustrated that the Corinthian church still needed “spiritual milk?”
- What are examples of “Spiritual milk” and “Spiritual meat”?
- What are some ways to foster your childlike faith while putting away your childish faith?
- How can someone have a faith that is both mature and childish?