

**WEEK FOUR**  
**JESUS CONNECTION**  
**CHILDLIKE FAITH**

**DISCUSS:**

- What is a kid's show that your kids like, but you cannot stand, or a show that you liked as a kid but now find totally annoying? [NOTE: Dave wants you all to know that he hates the show Caillou, with a passion!]
- What is it about these shows that attract kids but repel adults?

*I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like a weaned child. - Psalm 131:2*

**READ: 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.

**DISCUSS:**

- Why are the disciples scolding the parents? What do you think motivated them to keep the kids away from Jesus?
- Why was Jesus angry with the disciples? What did he tell them to do?
- What do you think it means to "receive the Kingdom of God like a child?" How might a child receive the Kingdom differently than an adult?
- Why was it important that Jesus spent time with the children? What does that say about the character of God?

**READ: Matthew 18: 1-5**

1 About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

2 Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. 3 Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4 So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

5 "And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.

**DISCUSS:**

- Why do the disciples ask Jesus who is the greatest? Is this a child-like or a childish question? Why?
- Jesus uses a child as an object lesson. What is he trying to teach them? What might he mean by becoming like little children?
- How is a child, unlike an adult, an example of humility?
- Jesus flips the script and says that true greatness is found in humility, how is that possible?
- How does Jesus's teaching relate to what we have been learning in Psalm 131?

**READ: Matthew 11:25**

At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. 26 Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

**DISCUSS:**

- Why does it please God to keep things hidden?
- Why does he reveal his ways to the child-like?

- God seems to do things counter-culturally, why?

**READ: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 19 As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. 21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. 22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

**DISCUSS:**

- How is God's plan for saving people foolish?
- How does God's foolish plan subvert the plans and understanding of the wise? Why is God's foolish wisdom so offensive to people?
- How does understanding God's foolish wisdom connect with a child-like faith?
- How does understanding God's foolish wisdom connect with what we are learning in Psalm 131?

**QUOTE: Stephen Shoemaker**

Psalm 131 is the song of a troubled heart being given the peace that passes understanding... It is simple but not simplistic. It displays childlike trust, but it is not childish. It is not sung this side of trouble; it has walked through it. It is a song of mature faith...A mature faith that seeks to trust God and have hope in the midst of crisis.

**RETURN:**

Go back to the main lesson. Wrap up with the CLOSING TIME prayer or choose an additional option in PATHS FOR THE JOURNEY