

WEEK FIVE
WEEK FOUR REVIEW
CHILDLIKE MATURITY

DAILY DEVOTIONAL: This week you explored how we are called to mature in our faith, while still experiencing childlike wonder. Take some time to process last week's leg of the journey.

DISCUSS:

- How did last week's study help you explore your spiritual growth? Are you drinking spiritual milk, in a weaning process, or eating solid food? How is your faith maturing? What are some areas of immaturity?
- Why is it important to understand that spiritual growth as stages, milk, weaning, solid food, maturity? How can that encourage you to continue to grow in faith?
- What is the difference between childlike faith and childish faith? How can we mature while remaining childlike? What is the danger of never maturing in faith?

PRAYER PRACTICE: The Practice for week four was the centering prayer, where you spend some time with God focusing on a single word. While praying, you allow God to speak to you.

DISCUSS:

- What word did you choose? Why did you choose that word?
- Was it easy or difficult to remain focused on your word?
- How did you handle distracting thoughts?
- How did this practice help you connect to our theme and to Psalm 131?
- What did God share with you during that experience?

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION: Last week we looked at how families brought their children to Jesus to be blessed. You were invited to create three expressions of coming to Jesus, as a child, an adolescent, and an adult.

SHARE & DISCUSS: Share your three artistic expressions with the group.

- How did your understanding of coming to Jesus change through the different stages of life?
- How did your artistic style change through the different stages of life?
- How did this activity allow you to see your maturing faith?
- How did it help you explore the childlike wonder of faith?

READ: 1 Corinthians 13:11-12

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things. For now, we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.

CONSIDER: This Apostle Paul reminds us that we are on a continual trajectory of spiritual growth and that we will never fully understand the depths of God while on this side of eternity. We start as children, craving spiritual milk, but we do not stop there. We must wean ourselves from a self-centered faith and continually move toward spiritual maturity. This means moving past a childish understanding of faith and wrestling with the mysteries of God, knowing we will never fully arrive.

RETURN:

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