

Luke 18:15-17

12 July 2020

ICEBREAKER: Describe a favorite activity or hobby you enjoyed as a child.

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 16 and Mark 10:13-14) Everywhere Jesus went crowds gathered. In this occasion, people were bringing babies and little children for Jesus to bless. Jesus' **disciples rebuked** the people for bringing the children to Jesus. The disciples may have tried to protect Jesus' time and energy from **secondary matters**, things of secondary importance. Their intentions seemed sincere.

However, **Jesus** became **furious** and, in turn, **rebuked the disciples** for missing the point. Ministry to and love for children was not a secondary matter, but a **primary focus**.

1. Describe a time at home or work where you realized you were **missing the main thing**, and focusing only on **secondary matters**?

(Read verses 16-17) In His rebuke of the disciples, Jesus declares a **clear** and **non-negotiable condition** for all who desire **to receive eternal life**. "I tell you the truth, anyone who will **not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.**"

Though Jesus' words are clear and simple, the implications are both surprising and fearful. Jesus makes it clear unless we receive God's kingdom as a child would, we will never enter it.

2. What specifically about **children** do you think Jesus meant when He said we must be '**like a little child**' to enter God's kingdom?

(Read verses 16-17) Not only must we receive the kingdom of God as a child would, Jesus declares, "the **kingdom of God belongs** to such as **these**." In other words, the people of God's kingdom will be described as **child-like**.

Little children **easily believe** and are **trusting**. They have **active imaginations** and **live in the unseen world**. They **forgive easily** and can **quickly resume playing** with those who may have just offended them. Children are **born adventurers**, not fearing to try new things. They are unashamed **learners**, asking "Why?" about almost everything.

Jesus says God's people must be like little children; otherwise they will never become God's people.

3. What **child-like quality** do **you believe God** has been **calling you to develop**?

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PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
