

“Why Kids Matter to God”

Mark 10:13-16 & Matthew 18:1-6

Parents brought the children to Jesus.

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.

Mark 10:13 (NLT)

Jesus wants to bless the children.

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.

Mark 10:14 (NLT)

Children have to be brought to be blessed.

There will be hindrances .

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Mark 10:14 (NIV)

“Don’t push these children away. Don’t ever get between them and me.

Mark 10:14 (MSG)

Jesus requires the faith of a Child.

I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Mark 10:15-16 (NLT)

Children are the greatest.

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

Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. 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. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:1-4 (NLT)

Welcoming Children is welcoming Jesus. **Harming Children pisses off Jesus.**

“And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Matthew 18:5-6 (NLT)

Children are an investment, **an eternal investment.**

*Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.*

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.

Proverbs 20:7 (NLT)

Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.

Proverbs 17:6 (NLT)

Notes

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Which children are you closest to in the world right now?
2. What do you remember of your own childhood and your spiritual journey?

If you have kids, or grandkids, (or any kid you love) how is that spiritual journey different in today's culture?

3. Re-read Mark 10:13-16 and Matthew 18:1-6. Why do you think Jesus reacted so intensely to the disciples in both of these passages?

4. Re-read Mark 10:5-6. What do you think it really means to have the "Faith of a child"?

In what ways does your age or intellect get in the way of your faith?

5. Read 1 Timothy 4:12. How do you see children or youth setting an example of faith for us that we should pay attention to and follow?

6. How can you engage in children's ministry right now in your everyday life?

Who can you invite to our EVEREST Children's program this week, or next Sunday morning?