

Those Who Receive the Kingdom of God

International Bible Lesson

Luke 18:15-17 & Mark 10:16

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“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (Luke 18:17).

How do little children receive life in the world God created? In general, with happy smiles, with joyful laughter, with an eagerness to learn, with unbounded energy, with creativity, with inventive play, with trust in others, with a sense of dependence, with a sense of right and wrong (especially when another child takes one of their toys), with a desire to express and receive love and hugs; and when they are taught about Jesus, they easily trust Him and enjoy singing songs of praise about Him. Of course, children are not perfect; they act their age, and loving parents rightly correct them. Jesus said those who want to enter the kingdom of God must receive the kingdom of God like a little child. If we consider some parallels between children and the followers of Jesus, we notice that the followers of Jesus receive Jesus as their King in God’s kingdom. They trust Jesus and they depend on Him for everything. Their sense of right and wrong develops as God’s grace works in them, and what did not seem wrong previously becomes obviously wrong to them later. They ask for and are open to correction and the discipline of Jesus when needed. More and more, they treat others as they would like to be treated. You can usually see them laughing joyfully and with happy smiles. They eagerly study the Bible to learn more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. They use their energy, their intellect, and their creativity to express their love for God, to serve God, and to help others using the gifts God has given them.

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Thinking Further

1. Think of Jesus and a movie star, a sports legend, and a politician. What are some of the qualities of each that attract people and their children to them?
2. How do you think the little children felt when Jesus called them to Him?
3. How do believers in Jesus feel when they go to Him in prayer?
4. Why does the kingdom of God “belong to such as these”?
5. Jesus sometimes called His disciples “children.” Do you think of yourself as a child of Jesus? If so, what does that mean to you?