

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: Little Children

Mark 10:13-16

January 18 & 19, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. It's vital that we understand the number one priority for us as parents, grandparents and the church - to get our babies to Jesus. What are some of the competing priorities to this for parents? Instead of getting our kids to Jesus, what are we doing instead?
2. Getting our kids to Jesus means getting them to someone that can save them - the only one that can save them. Honestly assess whether this is/has been the mission of your parenting?

Little Children: Their Worth

1. At the time of Jesus' words, children held little to no value in culture. How did Jesus' message change that view?

2. How does our culture currently view children? How has it changed and how is the same as the ancient world?
3. The mission of the church has been to take the children, especially when the world didn't want them. What might it look like to take on this mission in your own life, even if you aren't able to foster, adopt, etc?

Little Children: The Mandate

1. Ray explained that in the mandate to bring our kids to Jesus, we must not hinder them. How does a "profession of faith without a possession of faith" hinder them? How does a lack of humility hinder them?
2. Would you say you are being transformed by the gospel, in such a way that your kids take notice. Even at 70-80 do you believe/realize that your kids are still watching you? How does that change your motivations?
3. The mandate also includes a dedication to getting our kids in church and around mentors. Share your experiences with these things and describe the value they each have. Are/were you faithful in getting your family to church, do/did your kids have mentors?

Little Children: The Model

1. Describe what Jesus meant when he said that we should come to him just as the children came to him.

2. How does a spirit of helplessness stand in contrast to our culture of self empowerment, independence and being self made?

3. When the children came to Jesus he wrapped them in his arms and blessed them. Describe the beauty of that metaphor for your salvation? In what ways do you need to learn to be more like a child?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?