



Faith Like A Child

Text: Luke 18: 15-17; Matthew 18: 1-5

Introduction:

You are sitting here today because someone introduced you to Jesus – they taught you the word of God and brought you to Jesus.

And statistically we know for most of you - your journey with God began in your childhood.

Luke 18:15 (NIV)

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them

Barriers we have created:

1. Treat Children's Ministry Like Childcare
2. Give Kids Our Leftovers
3. Stifle Children's Curiosity and Participation

Luke 18:16-17 (NIV)

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Children aren't simply included in the kingdom – they become our examples of how to enter the kingdom.

“Children aren't just the future of the church...they are the present of the church.”

Probability of accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (American Christianity)

- 32% of children ages 5-12
- 4% of children ages 13-18
- 6% after age of 19

Barna Research Group

“By the age of 13, your spiritual identity is largely set in place. What a person decides about truth, sin, forgiveness, and eternal consequences during the preteen years is the same perspective that person carries to the grave and beyond.” (George Barna *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*)

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Focus on an aspect of our development that is necessary for entering the kingdom of God:
TRUST

Matthew 18:2-4 (NIV)

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- The ESV translates “lowly position” as “humbles himself”
- It is not about their actions – it is about their situation.

Kids TRUST IN OTHERS to protect, guide, educate, provide for them.

If the kingdom of God belongs to children—and if we are to enter it like a child—how do we have a faith like a child?

- At the heart of Jesus' teaching in both Luke 18 and Matthew 18 is this: **we must continue to trust.**
- This trust in God that can be established in childhood – isn't passive for the rest of our lives. Instead it is an active ongoing, deepening **relationship of trust in God.**
- **Trust isn't a one-time decision – it's a lifelong posture.**

Put this message into practice:

1. Help the kids in your life get to Jesus.
2. Consider your own walk with Christ. Are you deepening in your trust of God?

But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

May Community Christian be a church where children run freely to Jesus—and where every adult remembers that the greatest thing about a childlike faith is simple, steady trust in our Savior.