

PERSONAL REFLECTION

READ Deuteronomy 24:10-22, 1 Peter 4:8-11, & James 1:27. What gifts have you been given that you can use for the body of Christ within the church community? Outside the church in your neighborhood? In your workplace or school? How might you extend the grace and mercy you have received in these specific places?

PRAYER ITEMS:

WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

From the READ SCRIPTURE app, Available for both Android and Apple devices.

In the **READ SCRIPTURE** app, be sure to set your start date for January 1, 2026 in the app settings, and follow along with us!

November 1: 1 Corinthians 9-10 | Psalm 145
November 2: 1 Corinthians 11-12 | Psalm 146
November 3: 1 Corinthians 13-14 | Psalm 147
November 4: 1 Corinthians 15-16 | Psalm 148
November 5: 2 Corinthians 1-2 | Psalm 149
November 6: 2 Corinthians 3-4 | Psalm 150
November 7: 2 Corinthians 5-6 | Psalm 1

WALKING with JESUS

Matthew 18 | **Living As Little Ones**
Pastor Justin Carruthers | November 1, 2026

WHAT CHILDREN HAVE THAT WE ALL NEED

Children are models of _____ and _____.

We are all spiritually _____ people who need the _____ of Jesus.

IN GOD'S KINGDOM

It is _____, not _____, that flows 77 times.

THE NATURE OF FORGIVENESS

Someone must _____.

FORGIVENESS IS.....

Refusing to seek _____, giving to _____ what God has already given _____.

WHAT IS OUR MOTIVATION TO GIVE?

Earth- Unforgiveness will _____.

Eternity- Forgive like your life _____.... because _____.

THE GAME CHANGES

Humble yourself by _____.

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LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Can you think of a time when you were in an unfamiliar group and a small gesture made you feel welcome?

2. Have you ever been forgiven any debt of any kind? What was that like?

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. This weekend, Pastor Justin defined forgiveness as *"Giving to others what God has already given to us/me."* What are some of the variables that keep us from wanting to forgive our neighbor, and how can we grow in this area?

READ SCRIPTURE

READ Matthew 18:1-5, 21-35

1. How does this passage highlight God's presence in our world?

2. What does this passage say about our broken human condition?

3. How does this passage call me to make change in my life?

NOVEMBER 1-7 2026 | WEEK #6

DIGGING DEEPER

1. READ Matthew 18:1-5. Up until now, how have you understood this metaphor that Jesus uses for His followers to "*become like little children*"? Has that understanding been challenged? How so?

- **READ Matthew 18:3**. As Jesus indicates that we must "*change*" or "*turn*" to be like little children, what is He observing about our lives?

- How in your life do you resist this change that Jesus is asking for?

2. READ Matthew 18:24–27. The servant has no way to repay this enormous debt, yet the master takes pity, and completely cancels it. What does the master stand to lose by forgiving the debt owed him? How might their relationship change?

- **READ Luke 18:9-14, & Philippians 2:3-8**. Jesus challenges His disciples' desire for greatness, calling them to humility. What do Luke and Paul teach us, those who have received such grace, about the posture of humility?

3. READ Matthew 18:3-5, 28-30. Jesus calls His disciples to become like little children, and this servant responds with *immaturity*, rather than *dependency*. How does this behavior challenge or deepen our understanding of what Jesus means by "*becoming like a child*"?

- **READ 1 Peter 2:9-10**. Peter connects God's judgment of Israel in Hosea 1 with the mercy we received in Christ. How does this help us understand what it means to belong fully to Him, not because of who we are, but because of what He has done for us?

TAKING IT HOME

READ Matthew 18:32-35, & 1 Corinthians 12:22-26. While we are the "*little ones*" who Jesus is calling to Himself, who else are the "*little ones*" that Jesus desires us to extend His mercy to? Who might we be overlooking? Who might we label as undeserving? What must we do this week, now with this deeper understanding?