



5 Day Devotional: Watch- Jesus Loves The Little Children

Day 1: When Love Meets Indignation

Devotional

Have you ever witnessed someone being treated unfairly and felt your heart burn with righteous anger? That's exactly what happened when Jesus saw his disciples pushing children away from him. The word used here is 'indignant' - a deep, passionate anger at injustice. The disciples thought they were protecting Jesus from interruption, but they were actually creating barriers between children and their Savior. In that culture, children were often seen as unimportant, yet Jesus completely overturned this perspective. His indignation wasn't just emotion; it was a declaration of value. This moment reveals something beautiful about Jesus' heart. He doesn't just tolerate children or see them as future adults worth investing in - he delights in them right now, exactly as they are. When we see Jesus' passionate response to anyone being kept from him, we understand that access to God's love is never meant to be restricted. Today, consider the children in your life. Are you creating pathways to Jesus or inadvertently building walls? Sometimes we think we're protecting what's sacred, but we might be preventing others from experiencing the very love that transformed us. Jesus' indignation reminds us that his love is meant to be accessible, especially to those our world might overlook. The same Jesus who became indignant when children were pushed away is the one who welcomes you today. No matter how others have made you feel about your worth or your access to God, Jesus sees you with the same protective love he showed those children.

Bible Verse

'People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 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 10:13-14

Reflection Question

In what ways might you be unintentionally creating barriers instead of pathways for others to experience Jesus' love?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for your passionate love that defends and welcomes. Help me to see others through your eyes and create access, not barriers, to your love. Show me where I might be hindering rather than helping others draw near to you. Amen.

Notes

Day 2: The Art of Receiving

Devotional

Watch a child receive a gift. There's no hesitation, no questioning of worthiness, no attempt to pay it back immediately. They simply receive with joy and gratitude. This natural response holds a profound spiritual truth that many of us have forgotten as adults. Somewhere along the way, we learned that love must be earned. We developed the belief that we need to prove our worth, achieve certain standards, or maintain perfect behavior to deserve God's affection. But children remind us of a different way - the way of simple, trusting reception. God's love isn't a transaction where we pay with good deeds and receive blessing in return. It's a gift freely given by a loving Father who delights in his children. When we try to earn what's already been freely offered, we actually dishonor the giver and exhaust ourselves in the process. The kingdom of God operates on this principle of grace - unmerited favor that we receive, not achieve. Children understand this instinctively. They don't wake up wondering if they've done enough to deserve their parents' love that day. They simply rest in the security of being loved. Today, can you receive God's love like a child? Can you set aside your mental checklist of accomplishments and failures and simply rest in the truth that you are beloved? This isn't about becoming childish, but about recapturing the childlike trust that opens our hearts to receive what God longs to give.

Bible Verse

'Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' - Mark 10:15

Reflection Question

What makes it difficult for you to simply receive God's love without trying to earn it, and how can you practice childlike trust today?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to receive your love with the simple trust of a child. Remove my need to earn what you've already freely given. Teach me to rest in your grace rather than strive for your approval. Amen.

Notes

Day 3: Learning from Little Teachers

Devotional

Some of life's greatest teachers come in the smallest packages. Children have an uncanny ability to cut through complexity and get to the heart of what matters. They ask profound questions, offer unconditional forgiveness, and demonstrate trust that would make theologians envious. Jesus didn't just use children as an illustration; he presented them as our instructors in kingdom living. While we adults complicate faith with our questions, doubts, and self-reliance, children show us the beauty of simple dependence. They don't struggle with the concept of needing help - it's their natural state. Consider how a child approaches a loving parent. They don't schedule appointments or prepare presentations about why they deserve attention. They simply come, confident in their welcome. They share their joys without editing and their hurts without shame. They ask for what they need without embarrassment. This is exactly how Jesus invites us to approach our heavenly Father. Not with polished prayers or perfect behavior, but with honest hearts and open hands. Children teach us that vulnerability isn't weakness - it's the pathway to authentic relationship. When we learn from children, we discover that faith isn't about having all the answers but about trusting the One who does. It's not about being strong enough to handle everything alone but about being wise enough to know when we need help. Today, let the children in your life - whether your own, those in your community, or even your inner child - teach you something about trusting God.

Bible Verse

'God is love.' - 1 John 4:8

Reflection Question

What specific childlike quality do you most need to reclaim in your relationship with God, and how can you practice it this week?

Prayer

Lord, make me teachable like a child. Help me to learn from the little ones you've placed in my life. Give me their simplicity, their trust, and their ability to receive love without reservation. Amen.

Notes

Day 4: Running to Familiar Arms

Devotional

Picture a child lost in a crowded store. Fear rises, eyes search frantically, and then suddenly - there! A familiar face, loving arms, safety. The child doesn't walk calmly or explain what happened. They run with complete abandonment into the embrace that means home. This beautiful image captures how we're invited to come to Jesus. Not with careful explanations of our worthiness, not

with detailed accounts of our spiritual achievements, but with the desperate relief of a child who has found their way home. Many of us approach God like we're applying for a job - resume in hand, trying to impress with our qualifications. But Jesus invites us to come like that lost child - acknowledging our need, running toward love, trusting completely in the embrace that awaits us. The gospel dismantles our self-sufficiency and reminds us that we are, at our core, dependent on God. This isn't humiliating; it's liberating. When we stop trying to prove ourselves and start trusting in God's grace, we discover the freedom that comes from being truly known and unconditionally loved. Jesus doesn't merely tolerate us or love us because we've earned it. His love is not transactional - it's transformational. When we come to him like children, we don't just receive forgiveness; we receive an identity. We become children of God, embraced not for what we've done but for who we are in him. Today, will you run to Jesus? Not because you have it all figured out, but because you need him?

Bible Verse

'He wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.' - 1 Timothy 2:4

Reflection Question

What keeps you from running to Jesus with childlike abandon, and what would it look like to let go of those barriers today?

Prayer

Jesus, I come to you not with achievements but with need. Help me to run to you like a child runs to loving arms. Thank you that your love is not based on my performance but on your grace. Amen.

Notes

Day 5: Clearing the Path

Devotional

True disciples don't just follow Jesus; they help others find their way to him too. When Jesus corrected his disciples for hindering the children, he was teaching them - and us - about our responsibility to create access rather than obstacles to God's love. Think about the children in your sphere of influence. Maybe you're a parent, grandparent, teacher, or simply someone who interacts with kids in your community. Each interaction is an opportunity to either point them toward Jesus or inadvertently create barriers. The question isn't whether you're influencing them - you are. The question is: what kind of influence are you having? Clearing the path for children means more than just avoiding harmful behavior. It means actively creating environments where they can encounter God's love. It means modeling Christ-like character, speaking words of affirmation and truth, and surrounding them with others who will do the same. But here's the beautiful truth: as we love children toward Jesus, we often find ourselves drawn closer to him too. Their questions challenge our faith, their trust inspires our own, and their joy reminds us of the delight God takes in his children - including us. Jesus' words echo through the centuries: 'Do not keep the little children from me.' This isn't just about physical access; it's about creating spiritual

pathways. Whether through our words, actions, or the environments we create, we have the privilege of helping children discover the love that has transformed our own lives. May we be found faithful in this sacred calling, remembering that how we treat the least visible teaches us everything we need to know about the kingdom of God.

Bible Verse

'In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.' - Matthew 18:14

Reflection Question

How can you intentionally create access, not barriers, for the children in your life to know about Jesus?

Prayer

Father, help me to be a pathway, not a barrier, to your love. Show me how to love the children in my life toward you through my words, actions, and example. Use me to clear the path for them to encounter your grace. Amen.

Notes
