

## CONNECTION GROUP QUESTIONS – NOVEMBER 16, 2025

**Title:** How to Approach the Kingdom

**Synopsis:** To enter the Kingdom of God, we must come like children. The kingdom isn't something we take or produce by our own efforts; it is received as a gift. Our role is to participate in what God is already doing, revealing His work in the world.

**Scripture:** Mark 10:13–16

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### Icebreaker

1. **Would you rather** be a kid again for a day or skip ahead 10 years into your future?
  2. **What's something you loved as a kid that still makes you happy today?**
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## Read Mark 10:13–16

### Background Questions

3. How were children viewed in the ancient world, and how is that different from today?

**Leader Notes:**

- High child mortality rate, children often not given a place of honor or voice in society.
- Understanding the cultural context shows how radical Jesus' welcome of children was.

4. Why do you think people were bringing children to Jesus in this passage?

**Leader Notes:**

- Possibly seeking blessing, education, or favor.
- Shows that Jesus' ministry included the most vulnerable and socially marginalized.

### Meaning Questions

5. What is the difference between "taking" and "receiving," and how does this relate to the Garden of Eden story?

**Leader Notes:**

- All trees were gifts to be received, but humans took from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- Receiving the kingdom involves trust and openness rather than control or force.

6. What does it mean to enter the Kingdom like a child?

**Leader Notes:**

- Children depend on others for life and do not assert control.
- Suggests humility, openness, and trust in God rather than relying on our own power or effort.

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**Personal Application Questions**

7. What are some common ways that American Christians try to force entry or earn their way into God's kingdom?

**Leader Notes:**

- Examples: Perfect church attendance, giving large amounts of money to charity, volunteering for everything, aligning with a political party, avoiding certain lifestyle choices.

8. What does it look like in your life to "receive" God's kingdom rather than try to take or create it?

9. In what areas of your life are you tempted to try to control or force outcomes, rather than trust God's timing and provision?

10. How can we cultivate humility and openness like a child in our relationships, school, work, and community?

**Leader Notes:**

- Examples: listening, asking for help, relying on God, showing vulnerability.

11. What practices or habits help you notice and participate in God's kingdom already at work around you?

**Leader Notes:**

- Examples: prayer, service, generosity, noticing God's gifts in everyday life.

12. How does viewing the kingdom as a gift change your perspective on leadership, influence, or service?

**Leader Notes:**

- Examples: Shifts focus from power and achievement to stewardship, service, and revelation of God's work.