



IN PURSUIT OF JESUS

JESUS & CHILDREN

SUMMARY | Jesus placed a priority on how He related to children. In a day when children were mainly disregarded until they were of age, Jesus loved them, healed them, protected them, elevated them, and included them in His ministry.

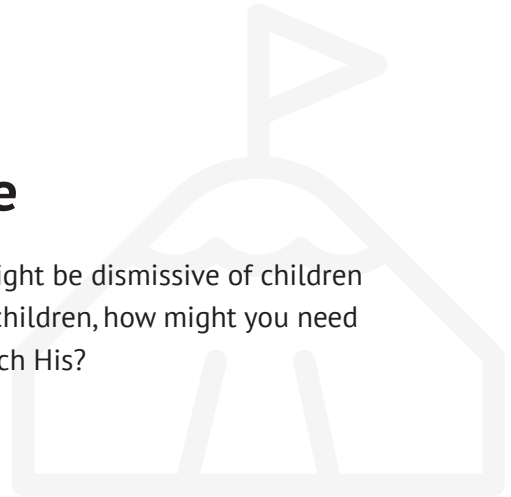
How do we view children in our homes and in our world? How can Jesus' connection with the children of His day influence the way we interact with them today? Listen to the *Discover the Word* team as they pursue Jesus by observing how He related to children.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 19:13–15, Mark 10:13–16, and Luke 18:15–17. Each of these gospels includes the same interaction of Jesus with children. Why is this important?
2. In Matthew 18:1–5 and Luke 18:15–17, Jesus elevates children. How does He do this?
3. What do Matthew 11:25–26 and 21:12–17 reveal about how Jesus values children?
4. In Matthew 18:6–10 and Mark 9:42–50, Jesus takes action toward children. What is it?
5. John 6:1–13 is the only version of the feeding of the five thousand in which a child is mentioned. How does Jesus engage the boy? What is the significance of this story?

Challenge

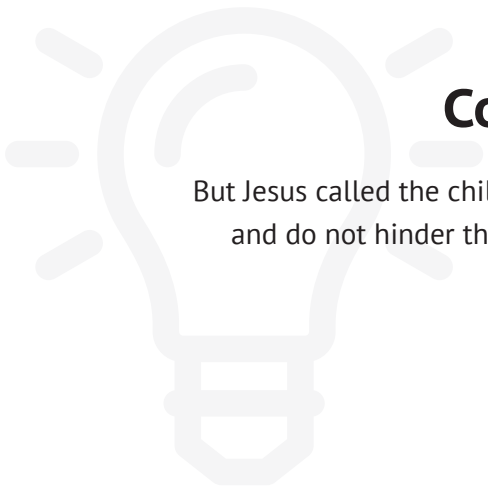
Think carefully about any ways in which you might be dismissive of children in your world. If Jesus has such a high view of children, how might you need to raise your view to match His?



Commit To Memory

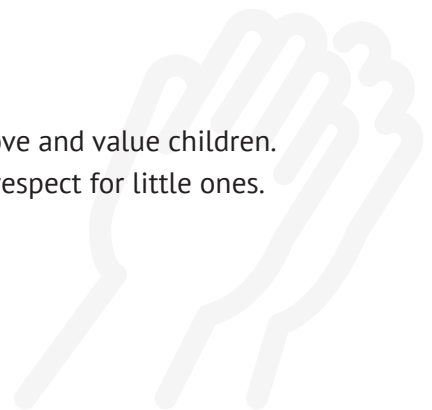
But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'

Luke 18:16




Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to remember how very much You love and value children.
Show me where You want me to grow in my love and respect for little ones.
Amen.







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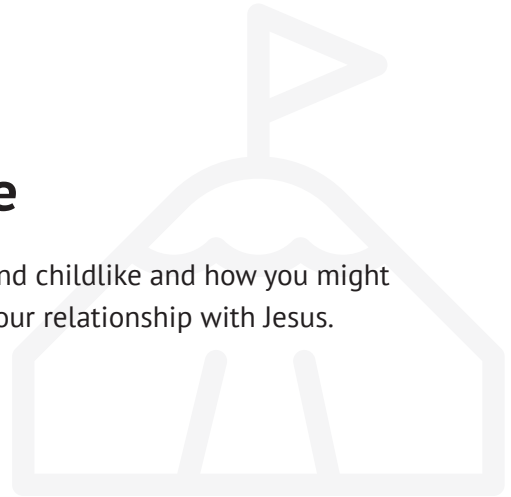
SUMMARY | Jesus respected and valued children so much that He blessed them, healed them, and engaged with them. Ultimately, Jesus includes you and me as God's children—adopting us into our Father's family. What does Jesus' connection with the children of His day indicate about who He is and how we can be in relationship with Him? Listen to the Discover the Word team as they pursue Jesus by exploring how much He loves all His children.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. The Gospels include several accounts of Jesus healing children. Read Matthew 9:18–19, 23–26; Mark 5:35–43; Luke 8:49–56; and John 4:43–54. Why is it important to see Jesus healing children?
2. Jesus not only cared for children, He cared for the parents of those children. Read Luke 8:49–56 again along with Mark 9:14–29 and consider how He demonstrates His love for parents. How would you feel if Jesus spoke to you this way?
3. Perhaps one of the most dramatic realities of our relationship with God is that we were adopted into His family. Read John 1:12–13; 3:3–8; Romans 8:14–17; and 1 John 3:1. What do you learn from these verses about your spiritual adoption?
4. Scripture often tells us to “grow up” and not remain as children. Read Ephesians 4:11–16; Hebrews 5:11–6:11; and 12:4–13. How is it necessary to “grow up” in order to strengthen our relationship with Jesus?
5. Scripture also tells us to remain childlike. Read Hebrews 5:11–6:1; 1 Peter 2:2–3; and Luke 18:15–17. What does it mean to be childlike? How might you remain childlike in order to know Jesus better?

Challenge

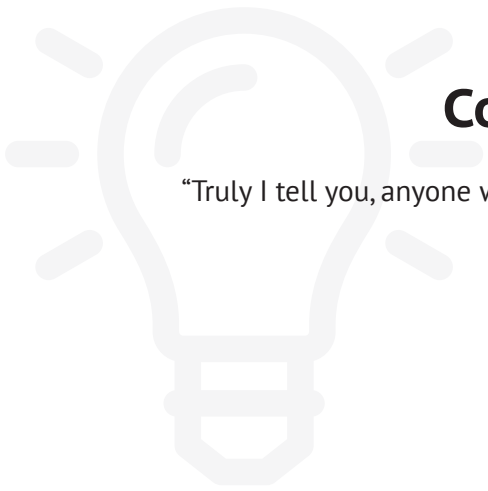
Consider the difference between being childish and childlike and how you might forgo the former and embrace the latter in your relationship with Jesus.



Commit To Memory

“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

Luke 18:17



Prayer

Dear God, thank You for showing me how to approach You: like a child,
honestly laying my needs before You.
Amen.

