

Like a Child Mark 10:13-16

God's Kingdom belongs to those with a child-like faith Mark 10:13-14

Child-like faith is expressed through faith and dependence Mark 10:15

- Jesus initial announcement of the kingdom is to *"repent and believe the good news"* (Mark 1:15). Repentance means recognizing one's unworthiness, acknowledging sin, and turning from it. Believing the good news means trusting in God's provision for salvation, not in our own good works. Mark 2:17 – Jesus says that He didn't come for righteous but sinners, that is, those ready to acknowledge their sinfulness and express their need for the Great Physician.
- Those who are lowly, broken and contrite are the ones who receive God's grace. (Psalm 147:6; Proverbs 3:34; Zephaniah 2:3; Luke 1:51-52; 5:8; 14:11; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 5:5)

Jesus blesses the children and the child-like Mark 10:16

- εὐλογέω (eulogēō) - to praise, give thanks to, speak well of, extol; (pass.) to be blessed, receive blessing; in some contexts, to give a blessing is to act kindly and impart benefits to the one being blessed
- What is blessing?
 - Blessing is more than just good words here. It's a ritual of sorts to confer favor, benefit, and even wisdom or authority. A father's blessing establishes the houses of his children.
 - Noah blessed Shem and Japheth in Genesis 9:26-27
 - Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in Genesis 27; 28:1-4
 - Jacob blessed his grandsons in Genesis 48-49
 - The laying on of hands was a priestly rite of investiture, or we might call commissioning, where wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9) and the spirit of office (Numbers 27:18-20) were conferred. This continued in the early church in Acts 6:1-6; 13:1-3.
 - The Aaronic Benediction is a priestly blessing in Numbers 6:24-26
 - A typical fatherly blessing in Judaism is to say *"May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh"* (Genesis 48:20) and then say Aaronic Benediction. Or for girls to say *"May God make you like Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah"* (Ruth 4:11) and then the Aaronic Benediction.

Response: A Prayer of Dependence

Dear Lord, I want to learn to trust You with all of my life, the good and the bad. I say not my will, but Yours. I thank You that I am unique and that You carefully fashioned me in a special way. Help me to learn what You want me to learn and to go the way You want me to go during this season. Help me not to make my own plans and then ask You to bless them. Teach me to listen to You and then do Your will wholeheartedly.

Forgive me for all the times in my life where I have forced my own plans and will, and change me to be one who lays everything at Your feet. Lord, convict me whenever I go my own way. I choose to do it Your way now. Help me Lord. I acknowledge my total dependence on you at this moment. All that I have is Yours and belongs to You. All my rights of ownership are Yours because You have purchased me with a great price. Take my weakness and sustain me. Please give me faith. I thank You that I am under Your protection. I thank You that You are my security. You are my rock and refuge. I am so blessed because of You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What is something you believed as a child (or early in your faith) but you have a harder time believing now? You could have a “fun” answer like the Tooth Fairy and then a “serious” answer like God’s healing power.
2. What are some steps you can take to become more like a child in your relationship with God?
3. In what ways are you still tempted to think you can earn your salvation or earn God’s pleasure?

Next Steps:

TAKE A PACK OF GROCERY BAGS TO DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEIGHBORS: Calvary is partnering with the OC Rescue Mission this month to fill the food shortage in Orange County this Fall! Reach out and give grocery bags to your neighbors and bring back filled bags over the next three Sundays to the OC Rescue Mission Truck in the courtyard.

COME TO “THE ART OF NEIGHBORING”: What if Jesus meant that we should love our actual neighbors? Join this 6-week workshop on Sundays, October 14 - November 18, at 11:00am in A-205 for thought-provoking and practical discussions that could transform not only your life but also your community. calvarylife.org/sunday

ATTEND “IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANITY”: Come hear John Stewart share a 3-part workshop on The Case for God, the Gospels and Jesus on Sundays, October 14-28 at 11:00am in the Choir Room (SW Corner of Worship Center). John is a lawyer, Christian apologist, author, award-winning radio personality and co-founder of Intelligent Faith.

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a “meal” for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus’ name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.