



Small Group Questions: Marked by Children

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Read

Mark 9:37 and 42, 10:13-16; and 1 Corinthians 13:1

Reflect

As we mature, we tend not to express excitement and emotion like we did when we were children. Kids don't question a gift...or whether they deserve it or are worthy. They freely receive it. God wants us to accept and trust the gift of His grace like a child would. Do you think you have child-like faith? Or do you question God's love for you?

It's admirable to shed childishness, which focuses on self and getting our own way, but too often we let go of our child-like wonder as well. It's the child-like attributes that God wants us to retain and embody.

Pastor Josh Walters gives us three ways to keep our child-like faith...and Never Grow Up:

1. Hang out with children.
 - a. We don't always make the time or effort to involve children in our projects. We want things done a certain way—up to our standards. Think of a time when you allowed yourself to focus on the child rather than the task.
 - b. What did it cost you? How did it challenge you?
 - c. What did you learn from the child? After seeing it through their eyes, how did it affect you?
2. Protect the innocence of children.
 - a. We need to keep watch over how we conduct our lives because children are always watching and listening.
 - i. Think of a time when you had a good impact on a child.
 - ii. Was there a time when you could have handled a situation differently? How might you have been a better example?
 - iii. Is there something you need to acknowledge and ask for forgiveness?
 - b. Keep watch over their lives.
 - i. With all the busyness and chronic overscheduling in our lives, how do you intentionally keep watch over your children's faith journey?
3. Share in the faith journey of children.
 - a. Do you believe we all share responsibility to keep children from stumbling? Why or why not?
 - b. In what ways have you shared in the development of faith of children? How might you intentionally do so in the future? Consider listing some concrete examples.
 - c. How has sharing in the faith journey of children, transformed yours?

Jesus doesn't provide a straightforward checklist to maintain a child-like faith. He compels us to humble ourselves—to observe and learn from children. What has a child taught *you*?

Respond

What do you feel God is asking you to do in response to this message? What is your next step? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?