

Luke
See Jesus
“You Must Be This Small To Ride”

Luke 18:15-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / May 14, 2023

Luke 18:15-17 “Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to Him, saying, ‘Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Jesus loves children and so should you!

Luke 18:15-16 “Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to Him, saying, ‘Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.’”

A. Jesus is always kind, tender, and loving to children.

Luke 9:46-48 “An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by His side ⁴⁸ and said to them, ‘Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.’”

B. The Bible always presents children in a positive light.

Psalms 127:3 “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”

C. In the Bible, people are always glad & grateful to have children.

Genesis 4:1 “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, ‘I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.’”

Genesis 33:5 “And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, ‘Who are these with you?’ Jacob said, ‘The children whom God has graciously given your servant.’”

D. Children are in God’s special care.

Deuteronomy 1:39 “And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.”

II. You'll never get to heaven without childlike faith on earth!

Luke 18:17 “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

James 1:21 “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

4 Reasons “Grown-Up” Faith Just Won’t Do

1. You'll try to clean yourself up instead of coming to God messy.

Luke 5:31-32 “And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

2. You won't come to God over and over again with the biggest things on your heart.

Luke 18:7-8 “And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily...”

Matthew 7:11 “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

3. You won't come to God confidently just because “He can do it.”

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Psalms 56:9 “...This I know, that God is for me.”

4. You'll never surrender everything to Him.

Proverbs 3:5-7 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes...”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Pastor Peter said “The Bible always presents children in a positive light.” Why/How are we tempted to view children negatively?
2. Pastor Peter said “Children are always in God's special care.” Is that comforting to you? Why or why not?
3. What opportunities do you have to be a more effective teacher or example of the Gospel for children?
4. What is the difference between “childish” faith and “childlike” faith?
5. Re-read the “4 Reasons ‘Grown-Up’ Faith Just Won’t Do.” Which of those have you experienced? In what ways could you stand to be more “childlike” in your walk with the Lord?