

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
What Do You Mean I Have to Be Like A Child?
Sermon 24.10.09
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Small Group Study for Week of October 24-30

The Big Idea

The Disciples of Jesus, by arguing about who was the greatest were being childish. Jesus wanted them not to be childish, but to have the faith in Him the same way little children should have trust in their parents. There is a difference between being childish and being like children in our faith. There is a difference between having a simple faith and a simplistic faith.

Group Reads: Matthew 18:1-14

Context: Jesus is on His way with His disciples to Jerusalem after around a year and a half. He is on His way to being crucified.

Question:

1. What are the characteristics of a child that Jesus wanted His disciples back then to display and His disciples today to display?
2. What negative aspects of children were the disciples portraying? What are some childish aspects God's disciples today portray?

Group Reads: Matthew 18:6-11

3. Jesus moves the conversation from children to the "little ones" or those new to faith. What are some ways we can harm new people just coming to understand about Jesus and His church?
4. What are some of the ways we can protect the "little ones," those new to Christ at church?
5. What is the difference between having a simple faith and a simplistic faith?
6. Anything else from the verses (V 1-14) above? Eg significance of angels and their access to God etc.

Group Reads Romans 6:1-13

7. Why do we act simplistically about sin so often? ("God loves me, sin away because He will forgive us")
8. How do the above verses help me regard God's grace and sin?

Comment: There are many commands from God in the Bible (simple faith) that we often rationalise away because of our “unique,” situations (simplistic faith)

9. Name some clear commands we often rationalise away? E.g. relationships, money etc

10. Group discuss what we can do to help us return to a life of simple faith and heed God’s clear commands.