

Group/Individual Study

Series - Love Does: Love empowers Children

Passages: Mark 10:13-16, Mark 9:33-37

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 5/27

1. Read Mark 10:13-16. Why do you think the disciples were trying to prevent people bringing their children to Jesus for blessing? Why do you think Jesus became indignant? Are children ever treated as interruptions to the "important stuff" in our homes? In our churches?
2. This passage seems to also suggest that there's something very important children have to teach us about how we all must come to God. What do you think Jesus meant by this? Flesh this out as much as you can.
3. Read Mark 9:33-37. Why do you think Jesus takes our welcoming of a little child as if we were welcoming Him? Prayerfully reflect on whether there is a concrete step you can take in the next year to bless specific children in your personal life or in your church life.
4. Jesus made a similar point in Matthew 25:40 about how He receives our care for people who are in places of weakness or need, as if those things were done directly for Him. What is it about the nature of God that always seems to have a "soft spot" for the underdogs and the vulnerable? Where does He love you in your weakness?
5. Children are always the weakest and most vulnerable members of any society. Who are some of your heroes because of how they care for kids in a way that likely makes Jesus smile? What do you see in them that you'd like to emulate?
6. Human nature often tends to gravitate towards power, accumulation, and many selfish pursuits. Children don't amount to much by such "yardsticks" - and so sometimes wind up marginalized. Yet Jesus lifts them up as having amazing value in His Kingdom. Tell about a time when your life has been deeply blessed by how God met you through a child or a group of children.