

Entering the Kingdom Like a Child

LUKE 18:15-17



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

LUKE 18:17



Every perplexing problem, every surprising turn of events, every challenge, trial, or opportunity must be understood through the lens of receiving the kingdom of God like a child.

A woman with dark hair is smiling and reading a book to two young children. The child on the left is a white toddler in a pink shirt, and the child on the right is a Black toddler in a blue shirt. They are all looking at the book together. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or classroom.

What does it look like to
receive the kingdom of
God like a child in 2023?

I. Embrace Helplessness



Embrace Helplessness:

Commit yourself to learning to be comfortable with being weak and vulnerable for the sake of the advancement of the kingdom of God.

“The life of discipleship is not about us getting stronger; rather, it’s about growing increasingly aware of our weakness and the Lord’s strength. Emptied of self, filled with Jesus. The words of John the Baptist are the words of a follower of Christ, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).”

CHAD BIRD

“We need only to think for a moment what faith is? Is it not the confession of nothingness and helplessness, the surrender and the waiting to let God work? Is it not in itself the most humbling thing there can be – the acceptance of our place as dependents, who can claim or get or do nothing but what grace bestows?”

ANDREW MURRAY

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

II. Learn Lowliness



Learn Lowliness

Learn how to be more than okay with being the lowest person in any situation. Gladly choose to serve humbly and sacrificially.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

MARK 10:45

“An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side 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.”

LUKE 9:46 - 48

“And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

MATTHEW 18:2 - 4

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 - 9



III. Explore God's Faithfulness

Explore and Expect God's Faithfulness

Determine to be decisively
dependent upon God's Word and
God's Spirit.

A child implicitly trusts his or her parent.

We must be decisively dependent upon
God – His Word and His Spirit.

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”

HEBREWS 11:17-19

Faith drowns out the noise of self and pride
and fear and unbelief and instead listens to
the voice of God in His Word.

“O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.”

PSALM 131

“He is making a confession of humble dependence on his Father. He isn’t trying to understand all of life, and in fact, he sees he cannot understand all of life. He says that he does not occupy himself “with things too great and too marvelous” for him. He is placing all of his hope in the love, power, and care of his Father. He is displaying the childlike faith that Jesus commends.”

JESSICA THOMPSON

In 2023, will you receive the kingdom of God as a child?

- Embrace weakness
- Learn lowliness
- Explore God's faithfulness

How about a commitment today?
