



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Praying Like a Child - Mark 10:13-16

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What tends to corrode, or chips away at your desire to pray most? Why? What have others learned in their walk with God that has helped them to pray?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

In what way can disappointment or a moment where you desperately needed to see God move or speak, but He did not, affect your prayer life?

Dave said that children serve as examples in three ways in how we learn to deepen our life with God in prayer. They aren't preoccupied with the business of life, they aren't preoccupied with self-promotion and they are open to learning new things.

How can adopting these attitudes motivate us towards prayer/spending time with God regardless of the "results" of prayer?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Mark 10:13-16; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 10:21]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How did the disciples react to this situation? (10:13)

What about Jesus surprised the disciples in this situation? (10:13-16)

How did Jesus respond to the disciples sending the children away? (10:14)

What do Jesus' actions tell us (10:14)

What unique connection do children have to the kingdom of God? (10:14)

What can we learn from children about the kingdom of God? (10:15)

How did Jesus want people to respond to Him? (10:15)

Read Mark 9:33-37 and Luke 10:21. How are these passages similar and how are they different?

Consider the different context that precedes these passages.

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

What is the difference between being child-like and childish? Why is this an important distinction in understanding the example of children Jesus gives us?

How can our disappointments, discouragements, and cynicism affect how we approach God in prayer? (How do young children respond?)

Given these examples by Jesus, what would be the purpose of deepening your relationship with God by spending time with Him in prayer?

In what way can you adopt a more “child-like” approach to God in prayer? How would this help inform you when you don’t see God move, answer, or respond to your prayers?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

How can we pray for each other?