

Discussion Guide
Here & Now: wk1 Become Like a Child
February 18, 2024



Big Idea

In the Kingdom of God, the lowliest is the greatest.



Icebreaker

Jesus was a brilliant teacher! What is your favorite teaching of His (in either parable, metaphor, hyperbole, or even discourse form) & why?



Discussion Questions

1. As we begin our several week journey through the Book of Matthew, discuss things like who Matthew was; what his journey to faith looked like (including what he did, etc. before following Christ & what that meant for him); what kind of book did he write; who it is thought he was primarily writing to, etc. Overall, just talk about all that you recall/know about he and his writing. Maybe even do some research (nerd out a little)?
2. Read Matthew 18:1-5. List out some qualities of children (good & bad). How were children viewed in Jesus' time on earth? Why do you think that Jesus used a child as an object lesson here? What do you think was going through that kid's mind?? Fill in the blanks from the following point from the sermon: *In the K_____ of God, the l_____ is the g_____*. What is one main application for you as you consider the point here?
3. Read Matthew 18:6-10. What is the connection that Jesus is using here between our sins and other people (i.e. what does it do to them)? What does this tell you about the Kingdom of God? At the end of the day, it is very important for every believer to: P_____ what they p_____. Why? Has a believer not doing so ever caused you to stumble in your faith? Explain (without using names if that is best). Did you recover from that & if so, how? Or are you still recovering? Read Psalm 16:8.
4. Read Matthew 18:12-14. Jesus now continues to teach via a p_____. What feelings does this teaching elicit in you? More importantly, what fact about God does this teaching reveal? Fill in the blanks from the following point from the sermon: *The K_____ of God exists so the l_____ can be f_____*. What is your role in that? Are you Participating with the Holy Spirit in that, or not? If, not, what needs to change?
5. Continuing to reflect on Matthew 18:12-14, share regarding in what ways you have been a "lowly and lost sheep" in the past. How did God reach you? What did it take for you to do in order to be found? How does it make you feel that He [God] did this for you? What is an appropriate current response to have toward Him [God] in gratitude for this?



Concluding Question

-Do you plan to complete the daily Bible-reading plan for this series? What will ensure your success?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray for those who will engage in this series (church attendance, reading plan, these guides).