

Taking It Home:

Regardless of each child's circumstances, Jesus wants us to know that the pain one feels for being rejected is matched by his anger for the way they are being treated. Jesus knows how we feel and is more than willing to help us overcome our pain.

- Are there any areas in your life that you still feel rejected? What can be done to assure that this feeling does not last?

A kingdom citizen is a person that has faithfully trusted Jesus and is joyfully dependent on his provision for their life. Contemplate your own walk with Christ.

1. Which kinds of things do you find easy to surrender to Jesus? Which ones are difficult?
2. How can we make sure that your dependence is on God and not on what he has given you?
3. In what ways can you become more childlike in your faith?

One of the greatest inherent fears of a child is to be overlooked and forgotten, and we must not allow this to feeling to overpower us or any of our brothers and sisters. We must teach them about Jesus' invitation to experience life with Him at the center.

- Write down the names of three people that you might be able to encourage and pray for that may be feeling left out.

1.

2.

3.

Recommended Resources

- *Dangerous Wonder: The Adventure of Childlike Faith* by Michael Yaconelli

The Ransom
"Let the Children Come"
Mark 10:13-16

Dr. Matthew St. John
Bethel Church
June 29, 2014

"Let the Children Come"

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelcf.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 29, 2014

Mark 10:13-16

Quick Review: A crowd of people persistently shepherd little children into the home where Jesus and his disciples are gathered. Several disciples are overwhelmed by this and discourage the people from seeing Jesus. In other words, the people are not included in the inner circle that the twelve disciples perceive they are a part of, so they tell the people to leave. They believe that they are looking out for Jesus, but earlier in Mark we see a similar situation as Jesus commands them to not forbid a man from casting out demons in His name. Jesus swells with anger at the disciples' self-importance and is clearly upset by their lack of compassion for the children. He forcefully commands the disciples to allow the children inside of the home, and to abstain from hindering them any further. Jesus then channels this anger into a teaching moment for his disciples, trying to help them to see that everyone is significant in his eyes. Through this passage, we are encouraged to be like the children that are so eagerly awaiting the opportunity to be with Jesus, and to embody the dependence and trust that they willingly place in him.

My Story:

- Have you ever been rejected by a person or a group of people? How difficult is it for you to experience this feeling of rejection?
- What are some ways that we might hinder our children from coming to Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus wants you to be like a child?

Growing Deeper:

- In Mark 9:33-37, the disciples argue about who is greatest, and in Mark 9:38-41, they stop a man casting out demons in Jesus' name. How do these two passages relate to the situation described in Mark 10:13-16?
- Jesus offers two commands for His disciples in Mark 10:14 and one of them deals with hindering the little children. Recently, we talked about Mark 9:42. Do you find it difficult to be a positive role model at times? How can we prevent ourselves from causing our children to stumble?
- What we do and the effort we put in does not earn favor in God's eyes or change the way that God treats us. How does Matthew 7:21-23 provide a warning for those that have a separate agenda and are dependent on their own efforts?
- Read John 4:13-14 and Paul's statement in Philippians 4:11-13. What can be said about the sufficiency of Jesus and Paul's dependence on God? What about this do you find encouraging?
- Jesus points out that we must receive things as a child receives things (Mark 10:15). Children readily accept gifts with an element of trust and joyful dependence on him. What does joyful dependence look like for us?