

# Like a CHILD

Sunday 5th August 2018

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Matthew 18:1-5  
Like A Child

As you prepare for these questions, please ask the Holy Spirit for his help.

- 1) The question asked by the disciples in verse 1 appears to be an unusual question, given that they have been constant companions with Jesus for at least a short period of time. Discuss what you think may have been going on in their thinking for such a question.
- 2) Thinking back to verse 1, consider what “identity in Christ” may look like today. Does it relate to a position or a role held by a person? If not, how does a believer identify with Christ? There are many ways for us to identify with Him. 2 Corinthians 5:17 is a possible starting point for discussion.
- 3) Why do you think Jesus brought a child into this discussion in verse 2? Consider a child in that time and place and compare a child in today’s 21<sup>st</sup> century western society. Does a time difference of some 2,000 years make any difference to this discussion? Why or why not?
- 4) A child, particularly a young child is totally dependent on his or her parents for their everyday provision. Are we as adults also totally dependent on our Heavenly Father for our everyday provision? Or do we do whatever we can to arrange our lives for our best advantage? Often our approach comes down to how much more of Jesus we want and how we see his willingness to provide. Please discuss this particularly from the extent of our surrender to Jesus. As this is a very personal question, consider praying as group before discussion and encourage each other to greater surrender.
- 5) Consider and discuss the following statement – When we surrender with reckless devotion to His Holy Spirit, all things become possible – supernatural power, peace, refreshment, revelation, healing, an insatiable longing for more of His Presence, a new sense of wonder and awe. (Roland and Heidi Baker)
- 6) Again, consider a child. Have you watched them outside where they express “joy” at finding a leaf or some such “treasure” on the ground and show mum and dad their treasure? As adults we do not exactly do the same thing, however do we find “joy” in our daily lives or are we weighed

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down by life's pressures? This question is not intended to be insensitive to the real pain and suffering that our world is often afflicted with. We do see in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul boasting in his lack of strength. Paul was well trained, well-educated and highly motivated. God however brought Paul to a place where he understood the concept of power in weakness. Once Paul received this revelation, He got excited and exulted the Holy Spirit working through Him. Please discuss.

- 7) Please read Mark 10:13-15. Jesus was angry with His disciples because they were scolding parents for allowing their children to come forward and be touched by Jesus. Please discuss what you think was going on then and whether we still consider children "get in the way" today. Please compare this to question 3 above.
- 8) Please read Mark 10:16. Here we see Jesus placing his hands on children and blessing them. Please discuss whether there is any power in Blessing someone today and what might that look like? Is this just a spiritual act or can it translate into something more tangible in the natural? Can you give examples?

As you finish, please thank the Holy Spirit for His help.