

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Oct 28, 2018



Pastor Hook 8:15, 9:30, Kate Flint 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's message, "The Lost Love?"
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: As a child, what experiences most filled your imagination with wonder? Listening to or reading stories? Creative play with other children? Recreational activities? ...

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Mark 10:13-16 and Psalm 126:1-3. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Psalm 126:1-3

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. ² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- In this “Children’s Sabbath” service, how did the other special aspects of the service- music, children’s sermon etc. speak to you as well?
- What do you believe adults can learn from children when it comes to Christian faith and spirituality (verse 15)?
- How does Psalm 126, a song of praise normally sung by God’s people on the way to worship, remind you of the faith of a child?
- Why do some of the good aspects of child-like faith and spirituality tend to fade as we grow older?
- How does the joy of God’s people bring glory to what the Lord has done to the nations?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read Luke 2:41-52. Forgotten behind at the temple at around age 12, Jesus amazed the teachers and people with his understanding, questions and answers (vs 46-47). What about this experience may have affected Jesus attitude toward receiving children as an adult?
- To what degree do you believe the development of children depend upon the active listening of adults other than their parents?
- What do adults also gain from listening actively and attentively to children?
- How do you believe Jesus, fully divine but fully human as well, grew in his spiritual insight during his childhood (verses 49-50, 52)?
- What might it have been like to be Jesus’ Sunday School teacher?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- As you reflect upon the child-like faith that the Holy Spirit may be cultivating in you, what personal aspects of life and faith do you believe God may be leading you to give more room grow?
- What barriers to child-like faith do you sense still stands in the way?
- As a church, together, we support the spiritual development of children and families within our community. How has the message this week and the discussion today affected your perceptions of children in our worship services and the significance of children’s ministries here?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How do the qualities of child-like faith challenge the kind of image we have learned to project about ourselves as adults?
- How might remembering/reclaiming these qualities positively affect the kind of Christian influence we might have with those around us this week?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.