

# SERMON NOTES

**Preacher:** Kevin Hardy

**Date:** March 2, 2025

**Text:** Mark 10:13-16

**Title:** Receive the Kingdom like Children

**Big Idea:** Disciples of Jesus have nothing to bring and everything to receive.



## I. CHILDREN AND THE DISCIPLES (v. 13)

*And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. (v. 13)*

- Children are being brought to Jesus for a blessing
- The disciples fail to see things as Jesus sees them

## II. JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES (vv. 14-15)

*But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (vv. 14-15)*

Jesus is saying you have to have this childlike dependence on Him.

Key word: RECEIVE. The Christian life is not one of attaining but of RECEIVING.

Receiving the Kingdom is about our response to God HERE and NOW!

"To 'receive the kingdom of God' means to be God's willing subject, gladly embracing the radical values which Jesus has come to inculcate. It is such 'reception' now which is the key to 'entry' hereafter." (R.T. France)

The good news is that Jesus is saying God's kingdom belongs to people like these children.

Do you try to earn your place in God's kingdom through your own performance in any way?  
Do you panic when you sin, or feel proud when you obey?  
How is Jesus' message humbling and yet exciting to hear?

## III. JESUS AND CHILDREN (v. 16)

*And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (v. 16)*

Jesus is saying, anyone can come to me – and in fact – everyone needs to come to me in this way. And as we do...He wraps His arms around us and blesses us!

Therefore:

- Know that disciples of Jesus have nothing to bring and everything to receive
- Look at the world the way Jesus calls you to as His disciple

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.*

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## READ Mark 10:13-16

Why do you think the disciples tried to stop the children from coming to Jesus? How does Jesus' response in verse 14 reflect His heart for children?

What does it mean that the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like little children? What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a child?

In what ways do we sometimes act like the disciples, unintentionally hindering others from coming to Jesus? How can we cultivate childlike faith while also growing in spiritual maturity?

How does this passage challenge the way we view our relationship with God? Do we approach Him with childlike trust, or do we struggle with self-sufficiency?

How can we apply Jesus' attitude toward little children to our attitude toward God? our regard for children?

What are some practical ways to encourage and nurture faith in the next generation?

How can we be more welcoming to children and new believers and those Jesus is speaking of here in our own church and community?

## PRAY