

**“Let the Children Come to Me”**

*Sermon Notes*

□ **As far as Jesus is concerned...a disciple's a disciple – no matter how small!**

1. Let's not \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ from entering the kingdom of God – let's \_\_\_\_\_ them (vv.15-17)

2. Let's not \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ from entering the kingdom of God – let's \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves (v.18)

**Next Week: Luke 18:18-30 – “How Difficult It is For Those Who Have Wealth to Enter the Kingdom of God!”**

**MEFC Community Group Study Questions**  
For the week of September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Getting Started**

1. When you think of “children's ministry” what specifically comes to mind? List as many things as you can.

**Digging Deeper**

2. When God's Word addresses “children's ministry”, these are the things that come to God's mind: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 4:19-24; Nehemiah 8:1-3; Psalm 78; 127; Proverbs 1-7; Ephesians 6:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-17. Take some time to work through (or at least skim through) these passages. What common themes do you notice? Make a list compiling as many themes as you can.

How similar are the two lists from questions #1 & 2? If they're markedly different, why do you think that is so?

**Open Your Bible to Luke 18:15-17...**

3. Why did the disciples get so bent out of shape in verse 15? What (from their perspective) was wrong with what was happening?

4. In Mark's version of this account, the text says that Jesus was “indignant”. We ought to note this well, for Jesus didn't get this way very often (Mark 3:5 and John 3:13-17 are the only other recorded instances in the Gospels). The word “indignant” means something like “angry” or “incensed” (Matthew 20:24; 21:15; 26:8; Luke 13:14). As it appears to take quite a bit to get Jesus angry, what ought this to tell us about the severity of this issue to him? Does it lie within your emotional bandwidth to become indignant over this, too? Why or why not?

5. Jesus tells his disciples not to “hinder” the children from coming to him (v.16). In context, they employed the use of verbal censure (or perhaps even physical restraint). How many ways can you think of that we similarly “hinder” our children from coming to Jesus?

6. What is the specific reason that Jesus gives in verse 16 not to hinder children from coming to him? What does it mean? What is he implying? Does this discussion have any bearing on the

question of what happens to a child who dies in utero, in infancy (2 Samuel 12:15-23), or perhaps a person with a severe mental disability? Why or why not?

7. In verse 17, Jesus shifts his focus from literal children to using children as an object lesson for all disciples. What's his point? What's he saying here?

8. How many different ways can you think of that adults can help children to come to Jesus? How many different ways can you think of to help adults to receive the kingdom of God “as a child”?