



Love. Live. Lead.

Like A Child

Discussion Questions:

- 1) This week, we continued our sermon series on the mission of our church by examining a story from the life of Jesus that we find in Mark chapter 10. **Mark 10:13-16 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him. When Jesus saw what was happening, He was angry with His disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to Me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then He took the children in His arms and placed His hands on their heads and blessed them.** What do you learn about Jesus as you read these verses?

What do you sense God saying to you personally through this story?

- 2) The mission of our church is to Love, Live, and Lead like Jesus. The story reveals one of the most remarkable aspects of the love of Christ: access. When Jesus lived among us on earth, one way He showed us His love was by allowing people from all stations of life to have access to His presence, teaching, and love. We see it as the heart of this story: **Mark 10:14 “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children”.** In a very similar way, Jesus gave access to people with leprosy, women caught up in prostitution, and other outcasts in society. What do you think this says about Jesus, and how does that instruct us when we consider loving like Him? Are you freely expressing your love to those close to you, your friends and family? What about those less valued by society?

As we consider how much access Jesus gave of Himself, we should also consider the amazing truth that we now can access God’s presence because of Jesus. **Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 2 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.** Jesus has granted us access to the most holy place by His blood. How often do you, with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith, draw boldly to His Throne of Grace?

3) As we consider the second phrase of our mission, Live like Jesus, this story from Mark reveals something interesting about how Jesus lived - He let us see His humanity. He experienced emotions just like we do. **Mark 10:14 When Jesus saw what was happening, He was angry with His disciples...** the story reveals an interesting glimpse of how Jesus deals with His emotions, even those He doesn't want to have. I know you, like me, have emotions that you don't want. Tell the story of a time recently when you were struck by unwanted emotions; what did you do? How did you respond?

One option available to us when we have an unwanted emotion, is simply to stuff it, push it away, or push it down and not deal with it. Another option, is to embrace the emotion wholeheartedly, no-questions-asked, and let it control us. These two options are especially relevant when the emotion is anger. How do you normally deal with anger?

What's interesting and instructive here, is that Jesus doesn't let emotion control Him nor does He ignore or stuff the emotion. He deals with the problem at hand directly. This shows us one of the most biblical ways to deal with anger and other emotions: to speak the truth in love. Paul says something interesting about speaking the truth in love and about Jesus.

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. Isn't it interesting that Paul says we are growing to become more like Christ when we speak the truth in love? What do you think of speaking the truth in love? What do you find to be some of the challenges when it comes to speaking the truth in love?

4) Let's end by examining **Mark 10:16. Then, He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on their heads, and blessed them.** I love the picture that this verse paints of little children sitting on Jesus' lap as He places His hands on their heads and blesses them. Let me remind you that in Jesus' day, children were not valued; they were often seen as a nuisance and dismissed. I think we see one aspect of Jesus' leadership here. As a leader, Jesus intends to bless those He encounters. Jesus wants us to lead with the intention of blessing others. Take a moment to consider this verse. **1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. Take time to consider that you are called to be a blessing.** What does that mean to you? How can you practically live this way?

Think about the Old Testament for a moment. One of the Old Testament's most pivotal moments is when God calls Abraham. Look closely at that call: **Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing.** God says I will bless you so that you can be a blessing. Take a moment to process this with your group.