

# Let the Children Come

February 6, 2022 | Luke 18:15-17 | Pastor Mike Foster

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Value children, like Jesus (v. 15)

- ⇒ Value of life is not defined or driven by capacity, productivity, achievement, desirability based on perceived burden or benefit, or other extrinsic factors.
- ⇒ Children (and all people) have intrinsic value through creation (stamped with the image of God) and redemption (purchased by the blood of Christ).

Bless children and bring them to Jesus (v. 16)

- ⇒ Create a culture of blessing where every child is accepted, affirmed, and adored.
- ⇒ Prioritize time, space, and resources for children at home and church.
- ⇒ Protect and serve children who are more vulnerable or who have special needs.
- ⇒ Share the gospel with children and teach the Scriptures to children.
- ⇒ Pray for children (use prayers in Scripture as templates – John 17, Philippians 1:9-11, Ephesians 3:14-21, Colossians 1:9-12).

Come to Jesus with humble, childlike faith (v. 17)

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Meditate on Psalm 127 & 128, along with Matthew 18:1-6
- Read “Crafting God’s Arrows” - <https://d1ueb8h0efn28g.cloudfront.net/articles/topics/parenting/essentials/releasing-your-child/crafting-gods-arrows/>
- Read “Your kids are not projects or burdens. They are gifts.” - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/children-gifts/>
- Read “The Blessing” by John Trent & Gary Smalley
- Read “Tying their Shoes” by Rob Green
- Read this article that offers hope for infertility - <https://www.waitinginhopeinfertility.com/blog/2019/gods-promises-better-hope-than-a-baby>
- Check out these good children’s Bibles— <https://ministry-to-children.com/best-childrens-bibles/>
- Watch the movie “Like Arrows”
- Support our ministry partners at the Laurel Pregnancy Center (<https://lpcpartners.org/>), Foster the Family DC (<https://www.fosterthefamilydc.org/>), and Building Families for Children (<https://buildingfamiliesforchildren.org/>)

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Imagine being a parent bringing your child to Jesus. How might you have felt to be rebuked by the disciples? What might it have been like to then hear Jesus call out to your children to come?
3. In what ways does our world or culture devalue children? Any specific examples of what this devaluing can look like?
4. Read Matthew 18:1-6. How serious does Jesus sound about valuing and protecting children? What are some ways in which people might cause children to stumble?
5. Read Psalm 127:3-5. Have you ever been tempted to view children as a burden? What are some specific ways in which children are a BLESSING?
6. In what ways can you be more intentional to bless children – either your children or grandchildren, or children in general in church and community?
7. Share an example of a person you know who is a great blessing to children. What stands out to you about that person?
8. What encouragement might you offer to parents who are weary of parenting?
9. What encouragement or support might you offer to a woman or couple experiencing an unwanted pregnancy?
10. What encouragement might you offer to parents who desire but are unable to have children?