

Children

I will live with a childlike faith. God calls me His child and I call Him Father. Jesus said I am to receive Him and His kingdom as a child. I will look to the faith of children as an example for my own faith. Jesus used the innocence and openness of children to show the attitude necessary for me to follow Him. It's natural for a child to trust, to have faith and believe; it's natural for a child to live in awe and wonder; it's natural for a child to want to please and obey. I will never allow myself to be above getting down on my knees and looking in the eyes of a child to remind me of the wonder of life, the joy of living and the miracles of God. I will live with a childlike faith.

Children are a treasure; they are a gift from God. They are not expendable. God has given clear instruction of my responsibility and the significance of helping the children around me realize their importance to Him. I will never underestimate their thinking, their desires and their abilities. Nor will I ever allow them to think they are inferior. I will always affirm children by expressing God's love to them in the same way my loving Heavenly Father affirms His love for me.

As a follower of Jesus, God, my loving Heavenly Father calls me His child. As His child, He is always working to help me grow and mature. God finds great joy in my faith-steps the same way a parent finds great joy in the steps of a child. God continually assures me of my value and worth to Him through His Word, His love and His Spirit. He loves me and disciplines me as His own. In this way He confirms that I am His child and He is my Father. I will live with a childlike faith.

I will follow Jesus' example in expressing love and respect for children. As a child of God the greatest thing I can do is to lead children to Jesus and help them discover and live their God-given purposes all the days of their lives. I will always listen to the Spirit's promptings regarding the desires of a child's heart to follow Jesus. For each child has been carefully knit together in their mother's womb by God for His purposes and plans. My desire is that children would say of me, "He follows Jesus well." I will live my life in such a way as to never cause a child to stumble or fall, so they will see Jesus' reflection in and through me. I will live with a childlike faith.

Study: Children

Day 1: Value Children - *Matthew 19:14* (Page 750); *Psalms 127:3-5* (Page 473)

Day 2: Teach Them Early and Often - *2 Timothy 3:14-17* (Page 915); *Psalms 145:1-4* (Page 478); *Psalms 78:5-6* (Page 448)

Day 3: Tell Children the Gospel - *Acts 16:29-34* (Page 845); *Psalms 34:11* (Page 428); *Psalms 78:4* (Page 448); *Deuteronomy 6:4-9* (Page 144)

Day 4: Encourage Them to Grow - *3 John 1:4* (Page 946); *1 Thessalonians 2:10-12* (Page 905); *Proverbs 22:6* (Page 496)

Day 5: Pray for Your Children - *Ephesians 1:16-18* (Page 895); *Numbers 6:24-26* (Page 109)

Day 6: Loving Discipline - *Hebrews 12:5-11* (Page 928); *Proverbs 13:24, 19:18, 22:15* (Page 489)

Day 7: Don't Provoke Children to Anger - *Colossians 3:20-21* (Page 904); *Ephesians 6:4* (Page 898); *Proverbs 3:11-12* (Page 489); *Proverbs 4:23* (Page 483). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: *Matthew 19:14 "But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.'"*

Matthew 19:14

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?