

DAILY READING: 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 is natural for a child to trust, have faith and believe; it is natural for a child to live in awe and wonder; it's natural for a child to want to please and obey. I choose not to outgrow wonder and the belief that I can do all things God invites me to do. I will live with a childlike faith.

Children are a treasure, a gift from God. It is God's plan for children to experience years of innocence while their personalities and habits are being formed. 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 the thinking, desires and abilities of children. 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.

God is always working to help me grow and mature. He finds great joy in my steps of faith the same way a parent finds great joy in the steps of a child. God 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 follow Jesus' example in expressing love and respect for children. As a child of God, the greatest thing I can do is lead children to Jesus and help them discover and live their God-given purposes all the days of their lives. 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 with a childlike faith.

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

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DAILY STUDY: CHILDREN

DAY 1: Value Children - Matthew 19:14 (Page 750); Psalm 127:3-5 (Page 473)

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

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

DAY 4: Encourage Them to Grow - 3 John 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 (Page 490); Proverbs 19:18 (Page 494); Proverbs 22:15 (Page 496)

DAY 7: Don't Provoke Children to Anger - Colossians 3:20-21 (Page 904); Ephesians 6:4 (Page 898); Proverbs 3:11-12 (Page 482); 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.

ACTIVITY:

Identify the children in your life and reflect on how you influence them. If you have younger siblings ask the Holy Spirit to show you what kind of role model you are being for your brother or sister. How can you be more like Jesus around the children you know?

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?

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