

Like little children



# Become a child

## John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

# Known, annointed and appointed

## Jeremiah 1:5 (The Message)

- “Before I shaped you in the womb,  
I knew all about you.  
Before you saw the light of day,  
I had holy plans for you:  
A prophet to the nations—  
that’s what I had in mind for you.”

# For a purpose

## Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

# On His condition

## Luke 9

- <sup>59</sup> Then He said to another, “Follow Me.”
- But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”
- <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”
- <sup>61</sup> And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.”
- <sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

# Can we miss it?

Luke 14:24

For none of those I invited first will get even the smallest taste of what I have prepared for them  
(The Living Bible)

# Following Jesus made easy

## Matthew 18:3

Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven

## Luke 13:34

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing!”



# Children .....

- Love unconditionally
- Have a zest for life/joy/marvel
- Are honest
- Are humble
- Are quick to forgive/don't carry offences
- Are trusting
- Are persistent
- Have no worries



# Children.....

- Are bold
- Knows their father's voice
- Are weak
- Are poor
- Are teachable
- Easy to please

# Children are also .....

- Ungrateful
- Demanding
- Loud
- Impatient
- Selfish
- Naughty



# Childlike versus childish

## 1 Corinthians 13: 11

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

# Children need to be disciplined

## Hebrews 13 (NLT)

- “My child,<sup>[e]</sup> don’t make light of the LORD’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.  
<sup>6</sup> For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”<sup>[f]</sup>
- <sup>7</sup> As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? <sup>8</sup> If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. <sup>9</sup>
- Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

# The fruit of being childlike

- Freedom in worship
- Freedom in testimony
- Freedom in prayer
- Freedom in using spiritual gifts



## Matt 21:15

- But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant <sup>16</sup> and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?”
- And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read,
- ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?”

# Whoever Becomes Simple Again

## Matthew 18: 1-5 The Message

- At about the same time, the disciples came to Jesus asking, “Who gets the highest rank in God’s kingdom?”
- For an answer Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room, and said, “I’m telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you’re not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God’s kingdom.