



Dancing To Jazz: Child's Play | May 23, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Sometimes just being an adult impedes our ability to engage our faith.

Key Verses

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Matthew 18:2-5 (NIV)

"He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'"

Discussion

Interestingly enough, it's sometimes easier for children to embrace simple concepts than it is for adults. When we coach a child through a difficult situation at school, and then ask ourselves as adults if we'd take that same advice to heart, many of us might have a hard time reconciling our answer. How is it that a child could look for noble and praiseworthy traits in a new student who is having a hard time adjusting and upsetting others, while we as adults continue to criticize and exclude people at work who we don't get along with?

1. What do you think gets in the way of adults being able to conceptualize things in the way children do? Why does the world seem much simpler from a child's point of view?
2. Think about a recent situation where you responded in a way that may not have been the most biblical response. Talk about why you responded the way you did. Do you think a child might have had a different set of eyes in the situation? Why or why not?

Sometimes, our faith is impacted by the fact that we are adults. Many of us grow up in church and digest the Bible for the first time as a series of children's stories. The problem with our faith as we grow up, however, is that our faith starts to feel like it's based on fairy tales. And then, when we try to apply it to everyday life, it doesn't feel real. As adults, we like to reason and make our faith fit what we want it to, but as kids, we just read without all of the complicated filters.

3. What was your favorite Bible story as a child? Why?
4. Have you tried to wrestle with some of the same Bible stories you heard as a child as an adult? What have you found to be true? Are they more like fairy tales to you?

In Matthew 18:2-5, Jesus challenges us to change and become like a child in our faith. He even says that if we don't do this, we won't make it to the kingdom of heaven! This allows us to actually hear and see what God is trying to say... rather than the way we interpreted scripture to better fit what we think and want it to say. If we better understand and apply scripture, as it's meant to be understood, we could impact more people and live out our calling as Christians in a much more authentic way.

5. What do you think it means and looks like to have childlike faith? Have you seen this modeled by someone in your life very well?
6. What kinds of filters do you default to when trying to understand or interpret scripture? In what ways might you benefit from trying to remove those filters to read scripture with the eyes of a child?

What's Next?

Satan would love us all to believe that the Bible is nothing but a story, just fit for kids – that it's irrelevant for everyday life as an adult. But the irony is that Jesus would love nothing more than for us to see and experience the Bible like a child would, being able to see and understand it without the adult filters and reasoning.

This week, as you live out your faith, consider the places that you can learn from the way kids experience scripture and faith. Think about the ways that you could put your "adulthood," the filters and perspectives that you bring to the table, aside to have faith like a child so that more people could see and know Jesus.