



## LIKE A CHILD

June 2019

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

The disciples did not consider children worthy of Jesus’ time and tried to push them away. This made Jesus angry. He told them how children had value and—in fact—how they should try to emulate them. “. . . anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

© marja Bergen

Copy to your heart’s content. Share. But don’t sell.

Why does Jesus tell us we should be like a child to enter the kingdom of God? Amongst other things, he wants us to come to him with the humility and trust a child has. To allow ourselves to be dependent on him in the way children are dependent, admitting that we could not make it to heaven without God's grace and forgiveness.

I believe that most of us enjoy children. We may even feel like a child. Being childish—immature or inappropriate—is not so admirable. But childlike qualities have beauty that would be good to carry with us throughout our life. Children tend to be innocent and sincere. They're eager to learn. They are humble, trusting, open, simple, and spontaneous. They are unpretentious.

We are God's children. He loves us and wants to connect with us. This is what I hear him saying:

“Open your heart wide to receive the love I give you. Joyfully share that love with others. Wonder and be amazed at the world I have made. Be wholehearted in what you do. Take your Bible – my Word – and receive what it says as my message to you, eagerly accepting its truth. This is the childlike spirit I want to see in you.”

marja