

May 22, 2016



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Faith shines brightest in a child-like heart

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**  
Father, give me the faith of a little child. I want to know Your love and care, and to rest in Your embrace. Grant my desire to be like You in all my ways that I might live for Your honor.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*and said, Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven*  
(Matt 18:3 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Sep 14, 2014)*

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Fullness of Faith

NEXT WEEK

Joyous Faith  
(Luke 19:1-10)

## Childlike Faith

Luke 18:15-27; Mark 10:16

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the essence of **Childlike Faith**. The **study's aim** is to realize we must have childlike faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The **study's application** is to increase in childlike faith in all areas of our personal life and struggles.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

I enjoy watching my three beautiful nieces. When we go to the park, I chuckle while I observe them racing toward the playground with wild abandon. Watching them, there is a part of me that mourns each time they develop a bit more. Although I am glad that they are becoming more mature, I feel sad when a little more innocence is lost. There is something bittersweet in the nature of witnessing the children in your life grow older and change before your eyes. When you consider the word "childlike," which other words come to mind? For me, the other words include: "innocent," "trusting," "open,"

"sincere," "loving," and "honest." That is what the word "childlike" conveys to me—a sense of purity and *simplicity*. We do not stay that way for long. As we grow, we are altered. We find ourselves losing that innocence and becoming more sophisticated. We catch ourselves withdrawing due to hurts inflicted upon us. We are no longer as trusting, no longer as receptive to people or circumstances. We develop a hard shell. This is what Jesus was addressing in this week's passage. When the disciples pushed the children away, they felt that those little ones were bothering the Saviour. They thought that He had more important things to do than mess around with the neighborhood kids. After all, He had a serious mission to accomplish. Christ took a very different attitude toward children, and He set the Twelve straight. In correcting them, He made them realize something very important. When we approach God, He wants us to come like children. He expects us to trust Him and to depend on Him for what we need. He asks us to be honest and open to wherever He may lead us. We have to check our game playing at the door. Attempting to approach Him with pretensions or agendas will result only in useless struggle. This is not to say that we should be childish. There is a distinct difference between being childlike and being childish. A childish person is foolish, silly, self-indulgent, and immature. Paul reminds us that we are not to behave foolishly (Eph. 5:17). In fact, we are repeatedly admonished to grow and become mature in our faith (Jas. 1:4). We should do this so that we are not constantly wavering in our walk (Eph. 4:14-15). We need to think maturely (I Cor. 14:20). When we are thinking as mature believers, we set aside foolish things (I Cor. 13:11) and strive to grow (2 Pet. 3:17-18). This means that we should be wary of the world and its ways. Our Lord cautioned us to be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). What does this mean? It means that we should stop and consider our faith. Do we approach God the way a child would—full of trust in His will and reliance on His provision? Or do we find ourselves attempting to barter or play games with Him? How sincere and loving are we toward Him? Do we love Him as long as things go the way we want and then ignore Him when we do not get what we expected? Remember that our attitudes contribute to the depth of our faith. Are you childlike or childish?

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **SIMPLICITY OF FAITH (LUKE 18:15-17; MARK 10:16)**

#### *Simplicity through seeking to experience (15)*

Experience God personally, not just learning through the Scriptures (John 5:38-40)

Experience God through trials (Job 42:3-6)

Experience God through healing (Matt 9:1-2)

Experience God through obedience (Jer 35:13)

#### *Simplicity that is often misunderstood (16)*

Misunderstanding through using worldly thinking (1 Cor 2:14)

Misunderstanding through using human ideas (Acts 17:16-21)

Misunderstanding through using human wisdom (1 Cor 1:16-21)

Misunderstanding through the mind being veiled by Satan (2 Cor 4:3-4)

#### *Simplicity through innocence (17)*

Innocent humility (Matt 18:2-4)

Innocent soul (Ps 131:2)

Innocent desires (1 Peter 1:14)

Innocent wisdom (1 Cor 3:18)

#### *Simplicity that is rewarded by blessings (10:16)*

Blessings of good names and productivity (Gen 48:14-17)

Blessings of being close to God's heart (Isa 40:11)

Blessings of being welcomed by man and God (Mark 9:36-38)

### **CHALLENGES TO FAITH (LUKE 18:18-25)**

#### *Challenges to be good (18-19)*

Doing good by showing integrity (Titus 2:7)

Doing good by being productive in our daily lives (Titus 3:14)

Doing good by encouraging others to do good (Heb 10:24)

Doing good by sharing with others (Heb 13:16)

#### *Challenges to obey commandment (20-21)*

Obey by being a slave to righteousness (Rom 6:15-18)

Obey by living a life that proves obedience (2 Cor 9:13)

Obey by living in God (1 John 3:24)

Obey by being ready to do whatever is good (Titus 3:1)

#### *Challenges to give up treasures (22-25)*

Give up treasures that cause us to think we don't need God (Luke 12:18-21)

Give up treasures that are the wrong type (Matt 6:19-20)

Give up treasures that cause us to lose integrity (James 5:1-6)

Give up treasures that causes us to glory in ourselves (Dan 4:28-33)

### **REWARDS OF FAITH (LUKE 18:26-27)**

#### *Reward of salvation (26)*

A salvation that God appointed through Jesus (1 Thess 5:9)

A salvation Jesus will bring with Him at His second coming (Heb 9:28)

A salvation through justification by Jesus' blood (Rom 5:9)

A salvation that is gained through belief in Jesus (John 6:40)

#### *Rewards from God who can do all things (27)*

God can do all things because His plans cannot be stopped (Job 42:2)

God can do all things because nothing is too hard for Him (Jer 32:17)

God can do all things because nothing is impossible for God (Luke 1:37)

God can do all things because no one can stop Him doing as He pleases (Dan 4:35)