

# Glimpses of... Receiving the Kingdom as a Little Child

**Luke 18:17** Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

(NLT) **I tell you the truth**, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

(BBE) **Truly I say to you**, Whoever does not **put himself under** the kingdom of God like a little child, will not come into it at all.

(Rotherham) Verily I say unto you—Whosoever shall not **welcome the kingdom of God**, as a child, in nowise shall enter thereinto.

(ERV) The truth is, you must **accept** God's kingdom **like a little child accepts things**, or you will never enter it."

(GW) **I can guarantee this truth**: Whoever doesn't receive the kingdom of God as a little child receives it will never enter it."

(Moffatt NT) I tell you truly, whoever will not **submit to the Reign of God** like a child will never get into it at all."

(NLV) **For sure**, I tell you, whoever does not **receive the holy nation of God** as a child will not go into **the holy nation.**'



Jesus Loves the Little Children

We see in the next verse Luke 18:18...Jesus makes **very clear** what he means where He says...  
“**The qualities of little children that I seek are ...**”

(oh...oh! Jesus **doesn't explain** what He means ... He actually goes onto a different subject!)

So ... in the immortal words of William Shakespeare ... made popular by the master detective Sherlock Holmes ...

## The game's afoot!



We have our reasoning & a Bible full of people (examples) & scriptures (biblical principles) ... so let's begin a quest to understand what Jesus was **STRONGLY** seeking to tell us!



## The qualities of children that are Valued in the Kingdom Of God...

### 1. **Faith!** Naaman's Servant Girl

An unnamed young Israelite girl served as a maid in the house of the Syrian commander Naaman and played a key role in his healing... with a simple, sincere, and unwavering faith.



2Ki 5:1 Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great & honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him **the LORD** had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a **leper**.

2Ki 5:2 And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

2Ki 5:3 Then she said to her mistress, "**If only my master were with the prophet (Elisha) who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy.**"

2Ki 5:4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

2Ki 5:5 Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

2Ki 5:6 Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy...

### 2. **Submission to God's Rule:** Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah

Receiving the kingdom of God also means acknowledging God as the rightful ruler of your life. It involves surrendering your will and desires to God's authority and seeking to live in obedience to His commands.

Daniel 1 - they purpose to not defile themselves with the Chaldean king's food

Daniel 6 - Daniel in the Lion's Den ... for praying to God during a 30 day "ban"

**Dan 3:14** Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?"

**Dan 3:15** Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

**Dan 3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

**Dan 3:17** If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.



Dan 3:18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

**Dan 3:19** Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the **expression on his face changed** toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

Dan 3:20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, **the flame of the fire killed those men** who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

Dan 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

Dan 3:25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and **they are not hurt**, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Dan 3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, **servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.**" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

Dan 3:27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

Dan 3:28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

Dan 3:29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because **there is no other God who can deliver like this.**"

Dan 3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.



### 3. **Prayer & sharing Thoughts & Honest Feelings - David**

I imagine there could be “shushing” in heaven as the Father & Jesus are eager to hear the prayers of their children (including children!) Regular communication with God through prayer and seeking friendship with Him in worship and Scripture is an integral part of **growing in a relationship** with the King of the Kingdom of God.

Psa 1:1-2 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But **his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

Psa 143:5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

Psa 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

Psa 55:16-17 As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me. **Evening and morning and at noon I will pray**, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

Psa 109:6-12 Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; let an accuser stand at his right hand. When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him. May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership. **May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow**. May his children be wandering beggars; may they be driven from their ruined homes. May a creditor seize all he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor. May no one extend kindness to him or take pity on his fatherless children.

### 4. **Humble Service** - Mary

Receiving the kingdom of God includes a willingness to serve God & others humbly

Luk 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,

Luk 1:47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Luk 1:48 For **He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant**; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.



Luk 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luk 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Luk 1:28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

Luk 1:29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Luk 1:30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

Luk 1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Luk 1:33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Luk 1:34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luk 1:36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

Luk 1:37 For **with God nothing will be impossible.**"

Luk 1:38 Then Mary said, "**Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

## 5. Seeking God's Will: Timothy

Children love "Face Time" ... When I had young children they would sometimes grab my face to make sure I was watching them -- and sometimes instructing them! Children WANT to be on the side of Good & Right! God's will for their life. It means seeking to align your choices, actions, and decisions with God's purposes and plans.



**Paul delighted** in teaching young Timothy...

**1Ti 4:12** (CEV) Don't let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity.

**2Ti 2:22** (CEV) Run from temptations that capture young people. Always do the right thing. Be faithful, loving, and easy to get along with. Worship with people whose hearts are pure.

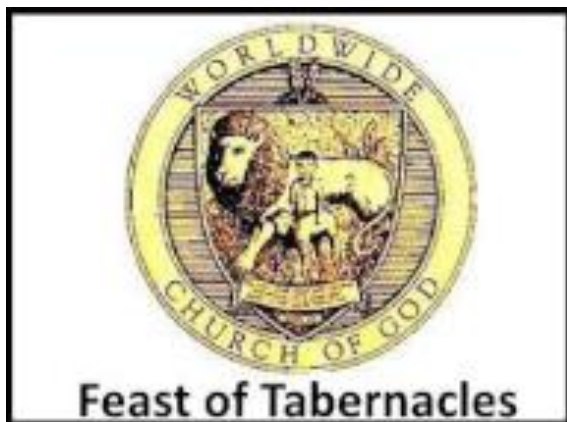
**Jesus was eager** to teach & answer sincere questions ...

**Luk 11:1** When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "**Lord, teach us to pray**, just as John taught his followers to pray."

**Mat 7:9-11** Would any of you give your hungry child a stone, if the child asked for some bread? Would you give your child a snake if the child asked for a fish? As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But **your heavenly Father is even more ready** to give good things to people who ask.

## 6. **Community and Fellowship:** Jesus

Children love to be together, play together & make friends. Being a part of God's kingdom also entails fellowship with other believers. It involves gathering together with fellow Christians to worship, learn, support, and encourage one another in the faith.



Hi I'm Sylvia ... would you like to play together?



Luk 2:42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast (*Passover*).

Luk 2:43 When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it;

Luk 2:44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

Luk 2:45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

Luk 2:46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

Luk 2:47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

## 7. **Generosity:** Jonathan

Receiving the kingdom of God often leads to a generous and giving spirit. It involves sharing one's blessings with others and being willing to sacrifice for the well-being of those in need.

1Sa 18:1 (CEV) David and Saul finished talking (*after David slew Goliath*), and soon David and Jonathan became best friends. Jonathan thought as much of David as he did of himself.

1Sa 18:2 From that time on, Saul kept David in his service and would not let David go back to his own family.

1Sa 18:3 Jonathan liked David so much that they promised to always be loyal friends.

1Sa 18:4 Jonathan took off the **robe** that he was wearing and gave it to David. He also gave him his military clothes, his sword, his bow and arrows, and his belt.

?? Hopefully these 7 Characteristics show qualities of little children that Jesus seeks! ??