



DON'T COME TO CHURCH IF...*

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 September 28, 2025
“...You Hate Kids”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, give thanks that you have made us your children through Jesus. We lay aside all distractions and unfinished tasks so that we may be fully present before you and each other. Aid us, Lord, in having child-like faith; faith that does not needlessly complicate your free gift of grace. You first loved us so receive now our love and adoration. Help us to increase our faith and draw nearer to you. All this we lift up in the matchless name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Titus 2:6-8 (NRSVUE)

⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled ⁷in all things, offering yourself as a model of good works and in your teaching offering integrity, gravity, ⁸and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.

Matthew 21:14-16 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

*‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?’”*

Mark 9:33-37 (NRSVUE)

³³Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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INTRODUCTION

Our lives begin in childhood, a time where we learn from our parents and others how to live. As we seek to witness to the world, we also share the light of Christ with the youngest among us. From songs like the “B-I-B-L-E” to “Jesus Loves Me! This I Know,” we sing about our belonging to God. As we study the Bible for the faithful accounts of believers in the past, we renew our passion to come before the Lord as his redeemed children. Let us reflect upon our reality, both as children redeemed in Christ Jesus and as those who faithfully seek to minister alongside new generations of believers. Amen?

QUESTIONS

1. Children learn by example. In Titus chapter 2, we are encouraged to be good examples in all areas of faith and life. How do you offer a good example of leadership, prayer, worship, forgiveness and more to both children and adults?
2. In Matthew 21:14-16 (on page 1), Jesus is being criticized for the praise he received for the healings he performed. His response: praise from children to the Almighty was already written about. In what ways do you and the greater church encourage praise and worship from all age groups?
3. The Apostles were just like us in that we can get caught up on who is the “greatest.” Jesus reminded them and us that our welcome of others directly relates to how we welcome God into our lives. How are you with welcoming others? Do you find it easy or difficult? Why do you feel that is?
4. In all our readings today, children are a major component. What role do you think children, youth, and young adults play in the life of the church? If the role you identified is not what you see happening at Asbury, what steps can you take to making that more of a reality?

FINAL APPLICATION

As part of our church’s “Closing the Gap” initiative, we seek to close the Generational Gap among many others. This calls us to move towards a greater cooperation of multiple generations, partnering together in worship and service of the Lord. With creativity and lots of prayer we explore new ways to engage people with the Gospel. This week, consider how you, too, can spread the light of Christ with and to younger generations. Amen?