

Jesus uses **children** as the central example of how we're to humbly approach him. Luke 18:1-23.

Do not **complicate** what is meant to be **simple**.
Luke 11:46 | Matthew 18:1-6

As you journey with Jesus, you should be able to look back over time and see **growth** in relationship and **maturity** in your life.
1 Corinthians 3:1-4 | 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 | Hebrews 5:12-14; 6:1-3

Relationship is the goal but where do we begin?

The **starting line** is Jesus... simply follow Him.
Luke 5:4-11 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | Psalm 19:7-14

Next Steps

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Take a moment and think about your childhood... What smell brings back the most vivid memory from when you were a kid?

What are some barriers to believing and trusting (People / God) that are different now than when you were a kid?

DIGGING DEEPER

This Sunday we talked about having faith in Jesus like a child. Being open and willing to receive the gift of life through Jesus, trusting God's direction for our lives with complete dependence.

It is good to take a step back and look at where you are. Think through the following statements and put a check by the one that best describes where you find yourself this week on your journey with God.

- I'm Exploring...** I believe in God but not sure about Jesus. My faith is not a significant part of my life. I'm pretty self-sufficient and only look for God when I'm stuck.
- I'm Growing...** I believe in Jesus and am learning what it means to get to know him. I typically depend on other believers to interpret spiritual issues for me and may read the Bible or other spiritual books on occasion. I've just started to invest in other people and serve others every once in a while.
- We're Close...** I really feel close to Jesus and depend on Him for daily guidance. I read the bible and talk to God to find direction for my life, although I may struggle with obeying what He's directing me to do. I serve other people regularly and this has become a regular expression of faith working out in my life.

- ❑ **Jesus Is Central...** On my journey with God I've found that He is all I need. He is enough and I desire to be a reflection of Him in my life. Talking with God is a constant daily conversation and I desire others to know Him. Serving others is my life's song.

- ❑ **Other...** (Please describe):

No matter where you are on your journey, it's good to look at where everyone's relationship with God begins. The following takes us to the beginning of the relationship that we can have with Jesus found in God's Word.

The starting line to a relationship with God for EVERYBODY begins with this truth: God loves you and wants you to experience his peace and eternal life. Read John 3:16-17.

- What did God give to make eternal life possible?
- What must you do to receive eternal life?
- What does God promise you in this passage?
- Why did Jesus come?

As much as God desires all to be in relationship with Him (2 Peter 3:9) we are, by nature, separated from God by sin and that will result in death. Read Romans 3:23.

- We've all done things that displease God. Humbly confessing our sin to God is the first step in this amazing journey of having a relationship with God. (1 John 1:9)
- Read Romans 6:23... what is the incredible gift given to us by Jesus?
- Read Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 2:24. How did God demonstrate the love for us referred to in John 3:16?

All of us need rescued and Jesus came, lived and died on the cross to do exactly that! All we have to do is believe in Him and we will be saved... Read Romans 10:9-13.

- According to this passage, how do you believe in Jesus?
- What are ways you can think of that we can tell others about the amazing change happening inside as we walk with God believing what he said in his Word?

Read John 1:12. As a receiver of this wonderful gift, what does this verse promise we become?

TAKING IT HOME

Do you long to have peace with God? Would you like to approach him like Jeff talked about last week... as daddy? The only way is found through receiving this gift of His Son, Jesus.

In fact, this is the STARTING LINE of a relationship with Jesus:

- Admit your need. "God, I've done wrong."
- Turn from the way you were going and be willing to walk in the direction God wants your life to go.
- Believe that Jesus died for you on the cross and tell Him that you receive this gift.
- Talk to your Life Group leader or another believer about it!

PRAYER REQUESTS