



Luke 18:15-17
TODD DUGARD
July 20, 2014

Warming Up

1. What are some of the ridiculous ways that people fail to act their age? What do you think when you see this happen?

Digging In

If you want to follow Jesus, you have to be a baby about it.

2. *The message is simple (18:15).*
 - The disciples think that the gospel message is too sophisticated for children, so they attempt to keep them away. How are they mistaken in their thinking? How do people today sometimes overcomplicate the good news?
 - Pastor Todd summarized the gospel message in five simple words: God > Sin > Substitution > Believe > Life. Discuss each word in this framework. How would you completely yet concisely explain the gospel to someone who didn't know it?
3. *The way is clear (18:16).*
 - Pastor Todd shared five ways that adults can hinder children from seeing Jesus. Take some time to discuss these. What is your response? Anything you need to change in your own family situation?
 - He also unpacked four ways that we can hinder ourselves from seeing Jesus: money (Luke 12:15b); education (Ecclesiastes 12:12b); relationships (Matthew 10:37); and religion (1 Samuel 15:22; Micah 6:1-8). Which one is the biggest obstacle for you personally? How so? What can you do to overcome it?
4. *The appeal is urgent (18:17).*
 - How do the episodes before (with the Pharisee and the tax collector) and after (with the rich ruler) this encounter (with the children) help provide understanding into what exactly Jesus is getting at?
 - When Jesus uses an analogy and says that a person must "receive the kingdom of God like a child," what is he *not* saying? What *is* he saying? What are the implications for those who want to follow him?
 - Why is the exclusive nature of God's kingdom increasingly problematic for many people? How does this exclusivity (some get in, some don't) make Jesus' appeal even more urgent?

Breaking Out

5. To what degree are you "being a baby" in your relationship with Jesus? Where are you continuing to be independent? How can you more fully embrace your utter dependence?