

## **When Jesus Encounters Children**

Matthew 18:1-6, 19:13-15, Luke 18:15-17

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Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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### **Matthew 18**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

### **Matthew 19**

<sup>13</sup> Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went away.

### **Luke 18**

<sup>15</sup> Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

## Table Discussion Questions:

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1. How are children viewed in our culture?
2. Why do you think the gospel writers continually bring up Jesus' love for children, though Jesus had no biological children of His own?
3. Why do the disciples rebuke those who are bringing children? Can you identify with them?
4. We spoke of Jesus' "liturgy of love" here as including four things: (1) time, (2) touch, (3) prayer, and (4) blessing. Talk about these again for a moment. Which of these stand out to you? Which do you want to apply more faithfully (not only to children perhaps, but to others as well)? Why?
5. Dependence is a big theme in the gospels. In fact, all the encounters in Luke 18 center on it. We can't know God's love for us in a deep way unless we come to see how dependent we are on Him for all things. How does independence from God express itself in your life? How do you need to become like a little child, or more practically, how can you express dependence on Christ more fully?