

Week 3 - September 30, 2020

We are the Children of God. God created us. God created everything. But unlike everything else that God created like animals, and plants, and mountains, and oceans, God views us as his children, who He wants to join him in Heaven. Jesus scandalized people by teaching his followers to pray the "Our Father" where we address God as our very own Father. People thought it was insulting for lowly sinful humans to address the all powerful God and Creator as if he was a loving parent. Jesus reveals however that God is a loving parent. He created each of you gathered around right now because he loves you and genuinely believed the universe was better for having you. Even when you make mistakes and do something that is wrong, you can still ask God your Father to forgive you knowing that he will continue to love you.

The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 29, Verses 13 - 15

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked [yelled at] them. but Jesus said, **"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."** After he placed his hands on them, he went away.

The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 6, Verses 9 - 15

[Jesus told them] **"Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**

Reflection

What do you think is good about being a child? What do you think is hard about being a child?

In the story, the disciples “Rebuke” the children trying to see Jesus, which means they were mean about telling them to go away. Why do you think they didn’t want the children to be near Jesus? They were wrong because Jesus did want to see the children. What would you tell the disciples to help them understand why Jesus wanted to let the children approach him?

Jesus says in the Gospel that the Kingdom of God belongs to children “such as these.” **What do you think it means for the Kingdom of God to belong to children?**

Jesus says that we must forgive others if we want God to forgive us. **What does it mean to forgive someone? Why do you think Jesus wants us to forgive people?**

Jesus tells us that we can pray to God and call him “Our Father.” Do you think God acts like a father? What does it mean to be God’s child?

Discuss these questions together, and any other questions or insights you have about it, then read it again together, reflecting on what you’ve discussed. Finally say the “Our Father” one more time as a family and really reflect on what it means to be children of God!