



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Unless You Become Like Little Children	SPEAKER	DSP Edric Sng
THEME	Unless	DATE	15 & 16 Oct 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

DSP Edric Sng opened the sermon with a thought-provoking question by asking why Jesus placed a child among the disciples in Matthew 18: 1-3. In the passages leading up to Matthew 18, it is apparent that the disciples had little faith (Matthew 14:22-34 and Matthew 17:14-20), had little love (Matthew 15:21-28 and Matthew 18:21-35) and had little understanding (Matthew 16:1-12 and Matthew 16:21-28). The key difference between the disciples and the child is that children have not yet been corrupted by the world. They are innocent, pure and childlike. The disciples had allowed their religion to be corrupted by pride, ego, busyness, fear, doubt, and other human concerns. To be a “good disciple”, first we must learn to be **a child of God**.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE CHILDLIKE FAITH?

1. Come to God with Contrition

In Matthew 18: 1-3, the disciples were concerned about the question of greatness. They were arguing amongst themselves about which one of them was the greatest. They seemed to think that Jesus had already chosen one of them as the greatest, or they wanted Jesus to decide among them.

Instead, Jesus called a little child to Him and drew their attention to His nature by having them look at the child as an example of humility. Jesus said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus said we are to humble ourselves to be able to enter the kingdom and be a good disciple. We need to set aside our pride, ego, boastfulness, our focus on achievements and performance. Jesus sees our hearts, and nothing can be hidden from him. No matter how good we think we are, we must recognise that we cannot do anything without Him. Hence, we must be converted to be like little children to humble ourselves and approach God with a contrite heart.

2. Come to God with Confidence (Hebrews 4:16)

Jesus both cares for children and recognises their value as an example to His disciples. Some have brought children to Jesus so that He can lay hands on them and pray for them. The

disciples have rebuked these people, perhaps to protect His time and energy from a request that is not urgent.

Jesus however steps in and insists on allowing the little children to come to Him. He tells the disciples not to hinder them because the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like children. It is a tender picture, and Jesus clearly cares for the children. He is reminding the disciples of their need for childlike faith and humility (Matthew 18:14).

3. Come to God with Conviction

As we grow in our relationship with God, we will experience the deep love of Father God, which is unparalleled. See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God. We are sons and daughters of the Most High God. By this we are assured that the love of God surpasses every boundary and there are no limits. God's love and care are amply supplied all the time. As we come to God with faith convictions, we will experience God coming through for us. He understands us, He knows what we are going through, and He desires to bless us.

CONCLUSION

As we prayerfully reflect on our relationship with God, let us ponder if we approach Him like one of the disciples: competing, striving, fearful, doubtful, busy, feeling unloved, and driven by performance. However, to be a "good disciple", first we must learn to be a child of God.

We are encouraged that as a child of God, we are already deeply loved. There is no need to compete or strive for His love as seen from 1 John 3:1. We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. There is no need to doubt your position in God with Christ. Romans 8:14-17 says: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. By him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. There is no need to live in fear. Be filled with the Spirit of faith. Romans 8:15 says "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again."

As we humble ourselves before the Lord and approach Him with confidence and conviction, we will understand and experience the greatness of Christ's love—how wide, how long, how high, and how deep that love is, as a child of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What does having a childlike faith mean to you?

2. Share an experience you have of God's abundant and unfailing love in your life. How has that impacted you and the way you love others?

3. Prayerfully reflect on your relationship with God. As the Holy Spirit leads you, share how you can exercise childlike faith, hope, and love in increasing measure in your daily life.