



“UNLESS YOU BECOME  
LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN ...”

A background image showing Jesus and his disciples. Jesus is in the center, looking down, with his hands clasped. To his left is a man with a beard, and to his right is a man with long hair. They are all wearing simple robes.

## MATTHEW 18:1-3

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,  
“Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of  
heaven?”

He called a little child to him, and placed  
the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you,  
**unless you change and become like little children,**  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



Why did Jesus place a child among the disciples?



## MATTHEW 14:22-34 – JESUS WALKS ON WATER

**28** “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

**29** “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

**30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

**31** Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “**You of little faith,**” he said, “why did you doubt?”

## MATTHEW 17:14-20 – DEMON-POSSESSED BOY HEALED

15 “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. ...

16 “I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”

18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

20 He replied, “**Because you have so little faith.** Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed ...”



The disciples had  
little *faith*.



## MATTHEW 15:21-28 – DEMON DRIVEN OUT OF DAUGHTER

**22** A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

**23** Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “**Send her away**, for she keeps crying out after us.” ...

**25** The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” ...

**28** Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” Her daughter was healed at that moment.

## MATTHEW 18:21-35 – THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

22 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,  
“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” ...

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”



A religious painting depicting Jesus with his hands clasped in prayer, surrounded by his disciples. The text "The disciples had little love." is overlaid on the image.

The disciples had  
little *love*.

## MATTHEW 16:1-12 – THE YEAST OF THE PHARISEES

**5** When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. **6** “Be careful,” Jesus said. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

**7** They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.”

**8** Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? **11** **How is it you don’t understand** that I was not talking to you about bread?”

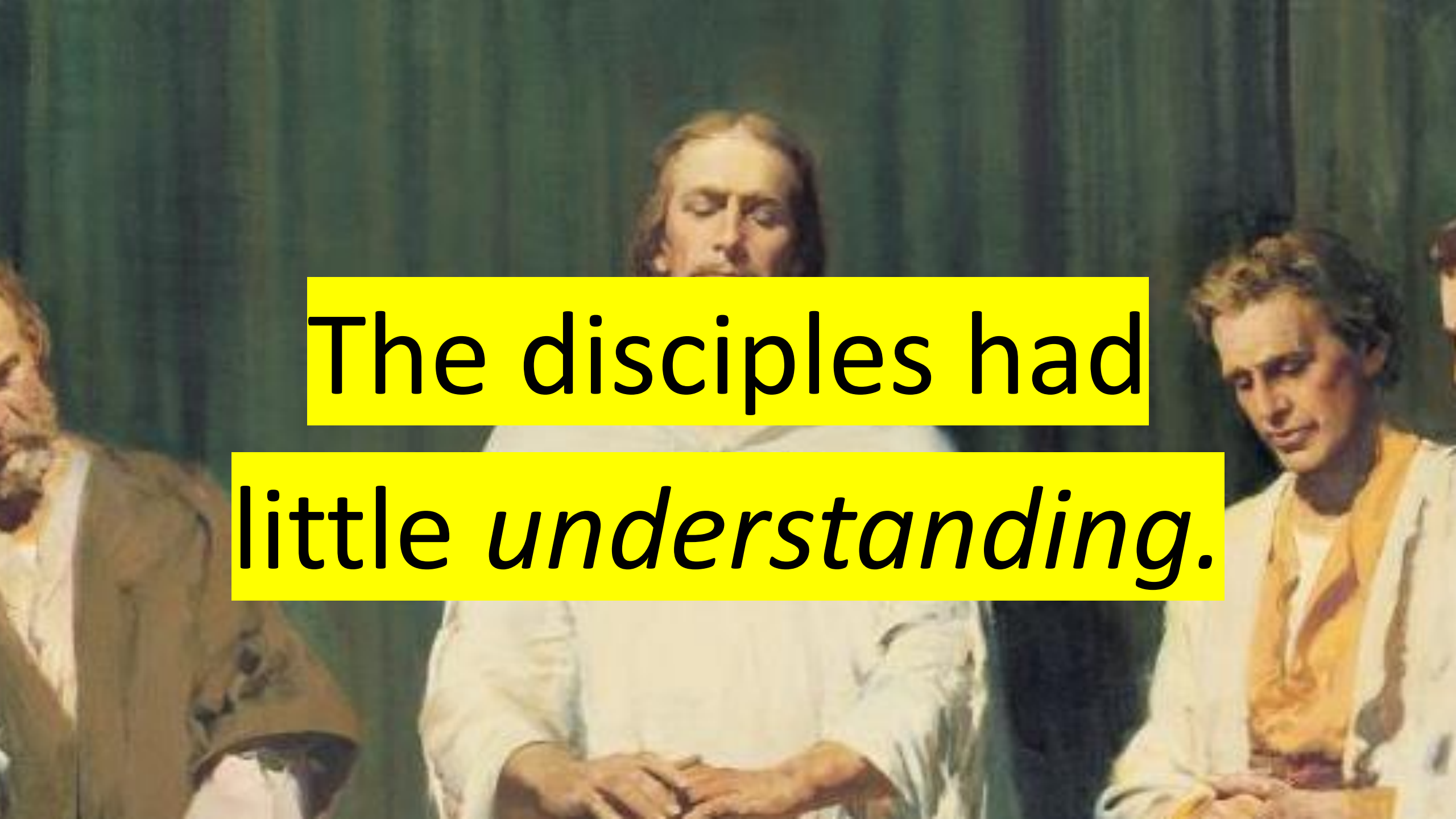
## MATTHEW 16:21-28 – JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

**21** From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem ... and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

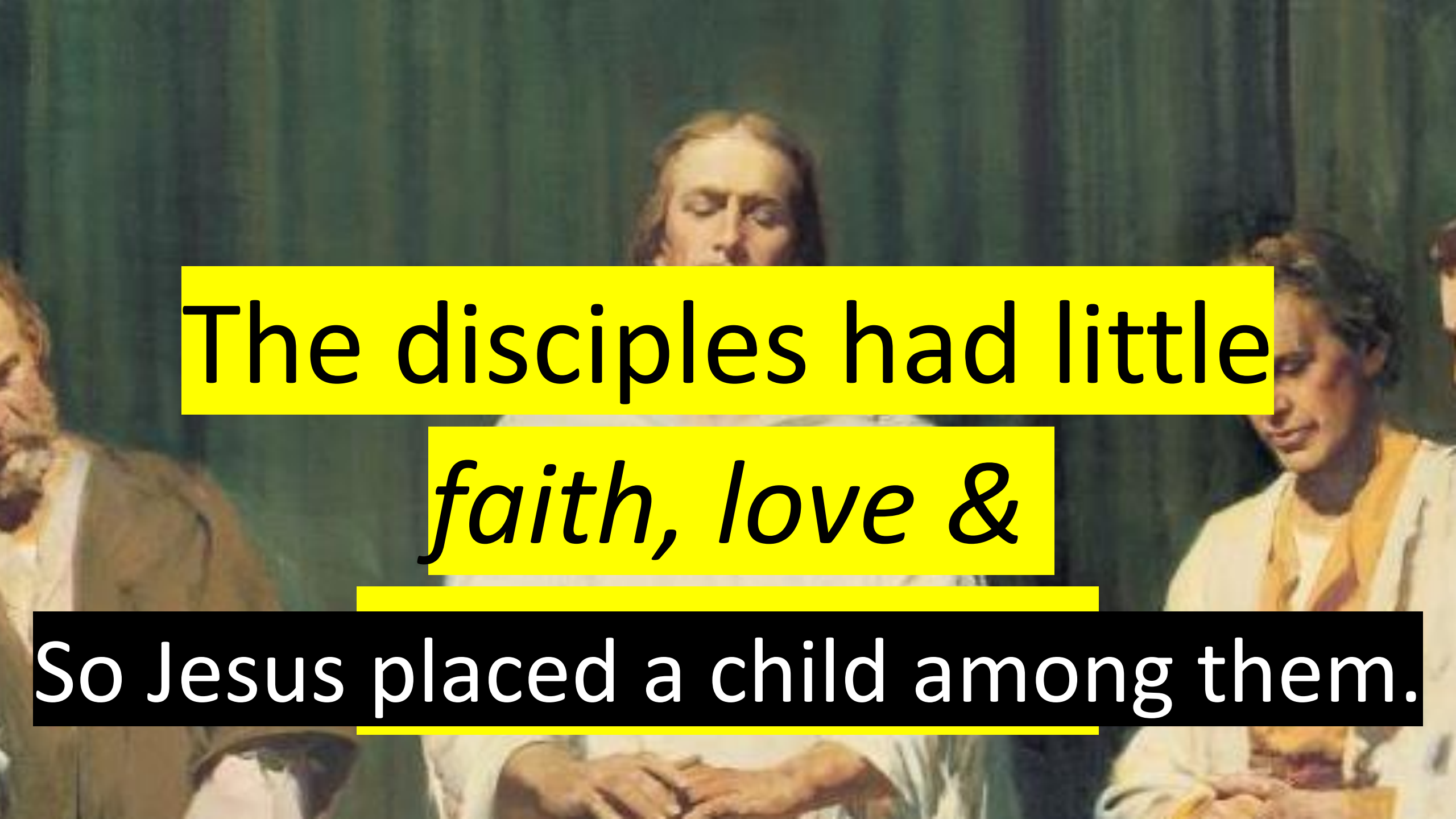
**22** Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

**23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; **you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.**”



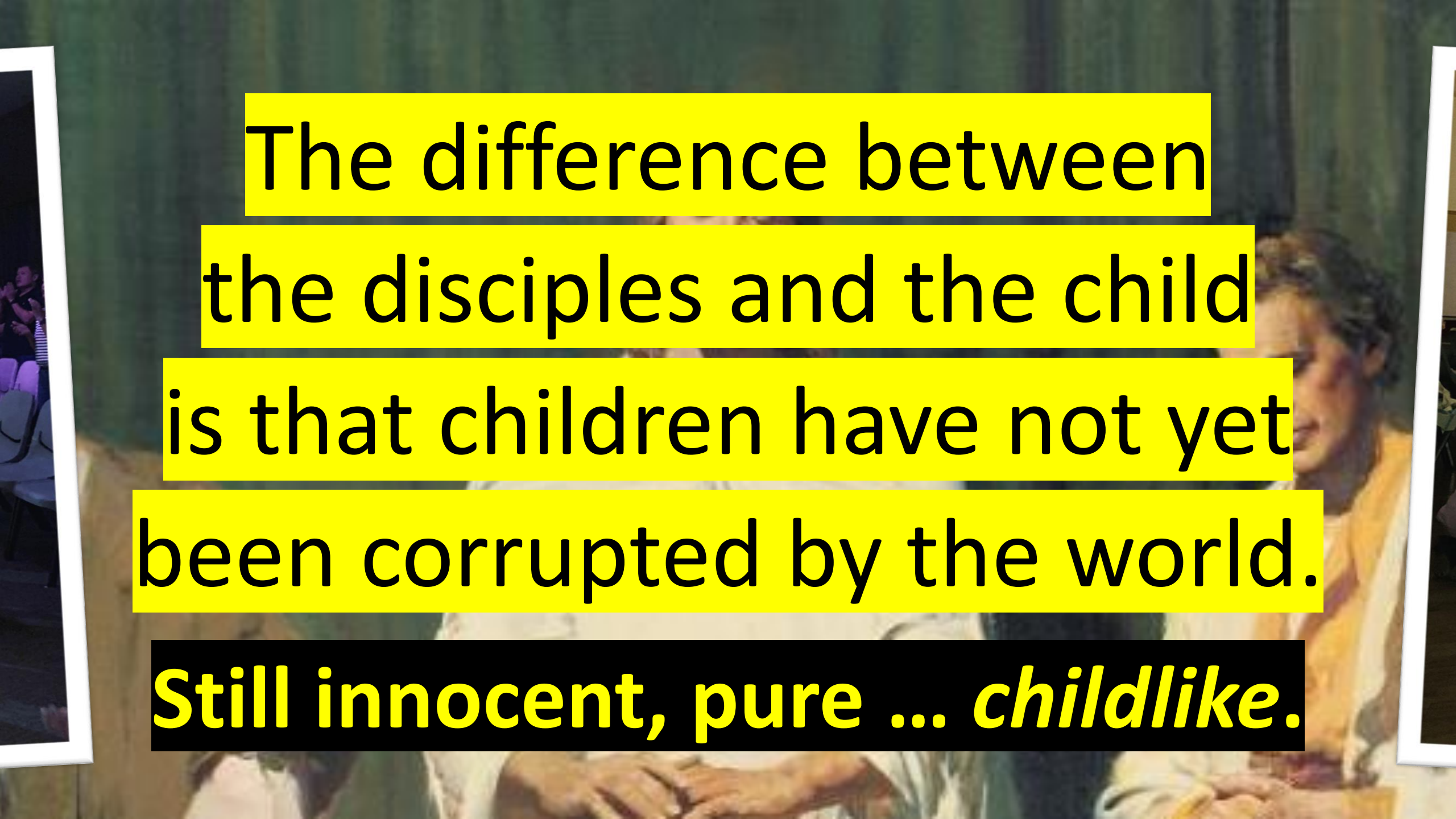
A religious painting depicting Jesus with his hands clasped in prayer, surrounded by his disciples. The text "The disciples had little understanding." is overlaid in yellow boxes.

The disciples had  
little *understanding*.



The disciples had little  
*faith, love &*

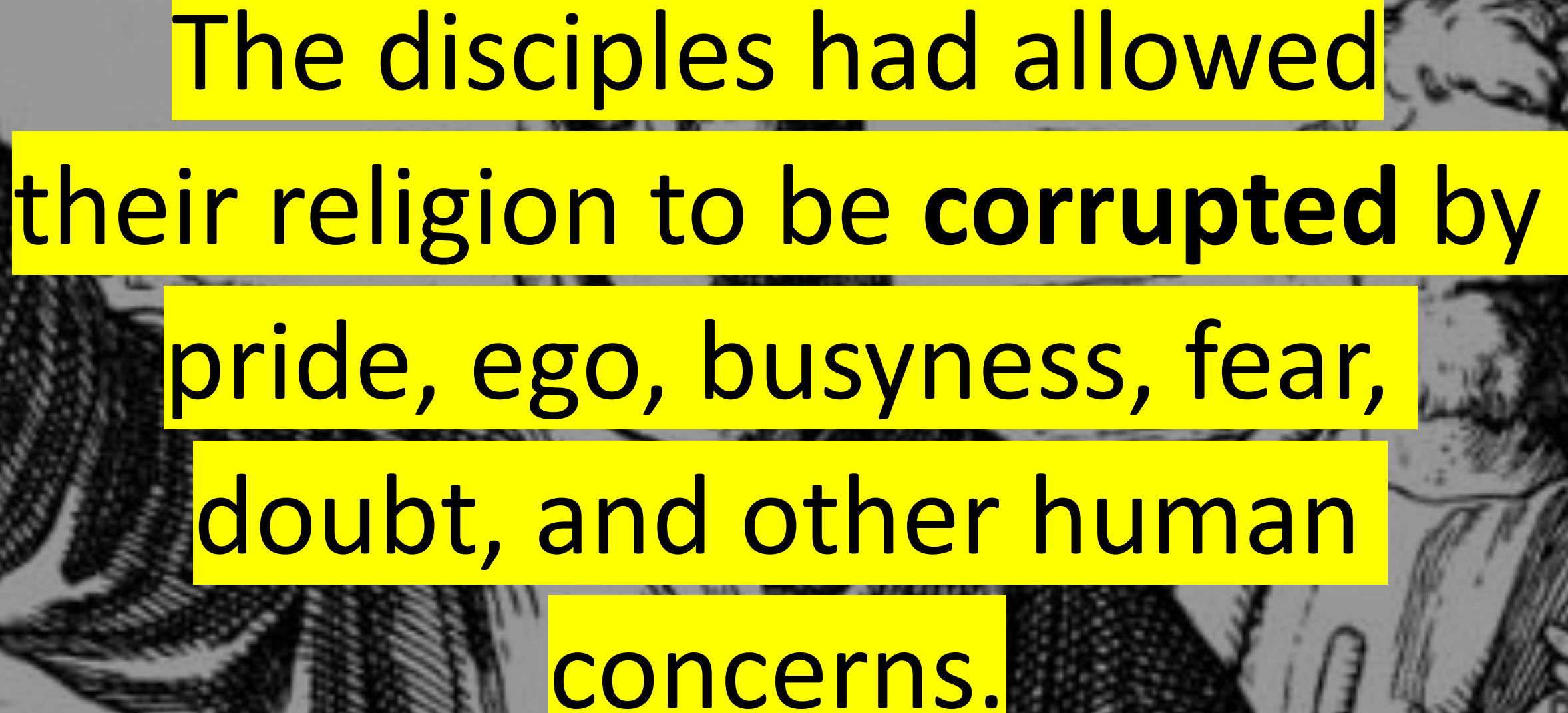
So Jesus placed a child among them.



The difference between  
the disciples and the child  
is that children have not yet  
been corrupted by the world.

**Still innocent, pure ... *childlike*.**



A faint, grayscale background illustration depicting a religious scene. In the center, a figure with long hair and a halo, likely Jesus, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with an open mouth as if speaking or in a state of divine inspiration. To the right, another figure with a halo is visible, also looking upwards. The background is filled with intricate line work and shading, suggesting a classical or religious painting style.

The disciples had allowed  
their religion to be **corrupted** by  
pride, ego, busyness, fear,  
doubt, and other human  
concerns.

The background of the image is a faded, grayscale illustration of several religious figures. On the right, a man with a halo, likely Jesus, is depicted. To his left, another figure is partially visible. The overall style is that of a traditional religious painting or engraving.

James 1:27

Religion that is **pure and faultless**  
(also **genuine and undefiled**) is this:

... to keep from being polluted by the

... to keep oneself unstained from the

... refusing to let the world corrupt you.

A detailed black and white illustration of the Fall of Man. On the left, a serpent is coiled around a tree branch, tempting Eve. In the center, Adam and Eve are shown in a state of distress. On the right, a haloed figure, likely Jesus Christ, looks on with a sorrowful expression. The background is filled with intricate line work and shading, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that as the serpent  
deceived Eve by his cunning,  
your thoughts may be corrupted from  
the simplicity / purity / sincerity  
of your devotion to Christ.





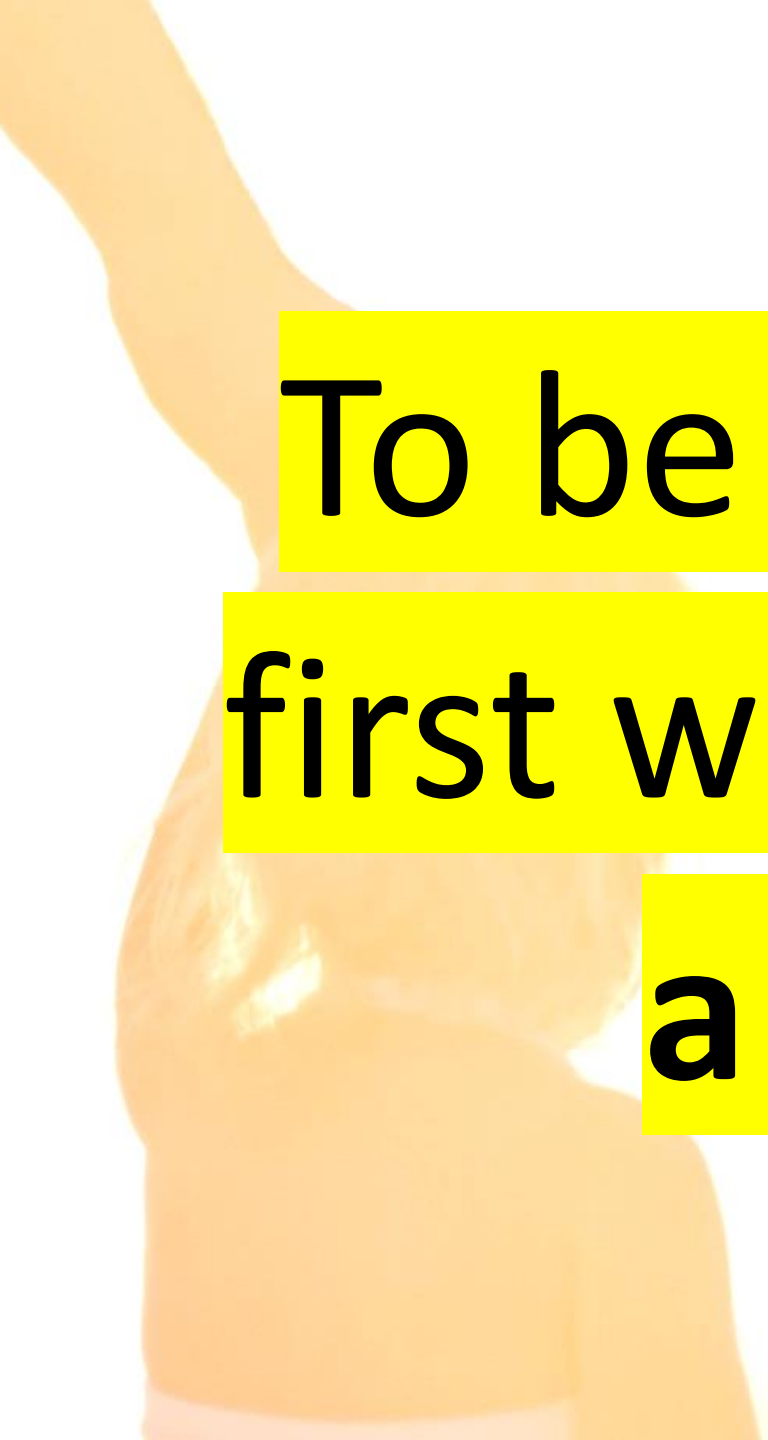
**When the *simplicity* of our faith is corrupted,  
we find ourselves saying things like:**

**Sorry God I v busy    Someone else do lah**

**God I don't want to deal with people in church**

**Too hurt    Too jaded    Too offended**

**Or we overcomplicate/overthink our faith**



To be a “good disciple”,  
first we must learn to be  
**a child of God.**



What does it mean to have  
**childlike faith?**



## MATTHEW 18

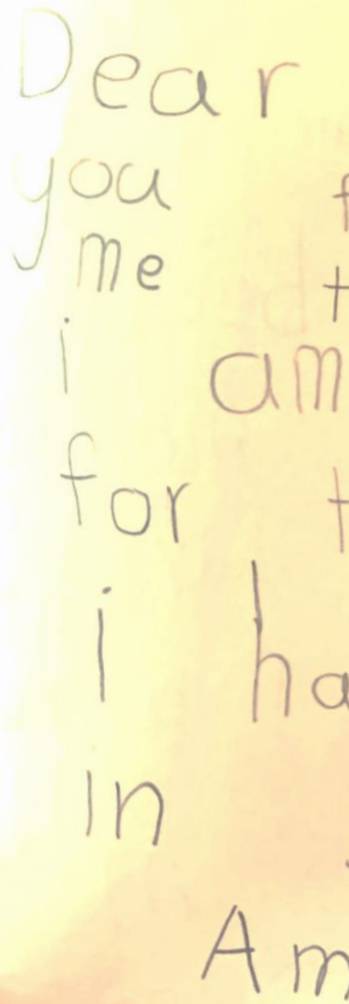
**1** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

**2** He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. **3** And he said: **“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”** **4** Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.



What does it mean to have childlike faith?

**Come to God with  
contrition.**



Dear  
you  
me  
i am  
for  
i ha  
in  
Am

## MATTHEW 18

**6** “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. **7** Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

... **10** “See that you do not despise one of these little ones.

**For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”**



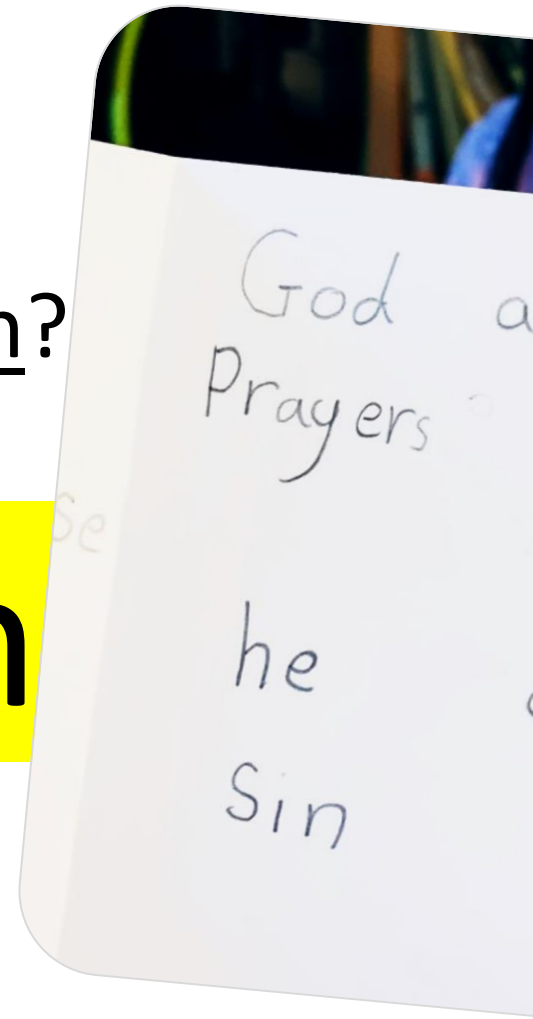


What does it mean to have childlike faith?

Come to God with  
confidence.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **HEB**

**4:16**



## MATTHEW 19

**13** Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

**14** Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”**

**15** When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.



What does it mean to have childlike faith?

Come to God knowing  
you are cherished.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! **1 JOHN 3:1**



Don't lose the *simplicity* of your faith!

Don't carry on with a *corrupted* faith!

Don't attempt *discipleship*  
without first embracing *sonship*!

**Today, will you come to Him like His child?**



Dear Daddy,

You are the BEST Daddy in the whole wide world! ☺

Watch how this child,  
**Courageous Caitie,**  
taught her parents  
about childlike faith.









Jesus loves you.