



Week of January 31, 2021
Get It dONE for Our Children
Luke 18:15-17

Day One: Read Psalm 104:24-25

²⁴ O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures. ²⁵ Here is the ocean, vast and wide, teeming with life of every kind, both large and small.

- Nothing impacts our capacity for wonder quite like spending time in nature. If you are able, take a walk in a local park or nature preserve. If you are unable to get outside, go to YouTube and search for “Kraig Adams Hiking.” He records stunning hikes from around the world. Repeat this passage as you get lost in the wonder of God’s creation.

Day Two: Read Luke 18:15

¹⁵ One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But when the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents for bothering him.

- The ancient world was harsh. Workaday people often worked ridiculous hours so they had little leeway for unimportant side-trips. And yet, we have in this story, and others, normal people bringing their children to see Jesus. What do you think these parents saw in Jesus that led them to leave their work, potentially risking punishment?

Day Three: Read Luke 18:16-17

¹⁶ Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. ¹⁷ I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

- Jesus doesn’t explicitly say what it is about children that makes them worth emulating. I’ve ventured two guesses. What do you think Jesus had in mind? Who are the children that serve as your point of reference? Could you tell us a story about them?

Day Four: Read Psalm 139

¹ O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. ³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. ⁵ You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! ⁷ I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! ⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. ⁹ If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. ¹¹ I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— ¹² but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. ¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. ¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸ I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! ¹⁹ O God, if only you would destroy the wicked! Get out of my life, you murderers! ²⁰ They blaspheme you; your enemies misuse your name. ²¹ O Lord, shouldn’t I hate those who hate you? Shouldn’t I despise those who oppose you? ²² Yes, I hate them with total hatred, for your enemies are my enemies. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

- Have you ever knitted anything? Or have you ever made something by hand? You don't have to be an artist to appreciate the care and intentionality that goes into that kind of work. Imagine the care of God's hands crafting you. I often speak to myself harshly; forgetting the way that God has created me. How about you? What if you paid more attention to the reality that you are a hand-crafted masterpiece?

Day Five: Read Luke 18:18-30

¹⁸ Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: "Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁹ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good." ²⁰ But to answer your question, you know the commandments: "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother." ²¹ The man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." ²² When Jesus heard his answer, he said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²³ But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ When Jesus saw this, he said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! ²⁵ In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" ²⁶ Those who heard this said, "Then who in the world can be saved?" ²⁷ He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God." ²⁸ Peter said, "We've left our homes to follow you." ²⁹ "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, ³⁰ will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

- Though we must still fill in the details for why children are worth emulating, we can gather some hints if we juxtapose this story of the Rich Young Ruler with what we know about kids. Here is a man who wants to enter the Kingdom of God. He has followed all the rules! But, when Jesus presses him on what he is willing to give up, the young man goes away sad. Kids have a knack for seeing a good thing when it is right in front of them. When they do, they are quick to drop what they are playing with to go and get it—or Him. What would you have trouble leaving behind in order to grow in your faith?