

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Get It dONE for our Children

January 31, 2021

Just as Jesus welcomed little children into his arms, we want to welcome children into a safe and inviting space where they can be nurtured; and stressed out parents can confidently leave their children and be refreshed in worship or other ministry. If we are going to welcome young families onto our campus, we need a space that communicates that children are a priority to us—and this new space will do just that.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 18:15-17

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Jesus, as he was preparing his disciples for what was to come next for them as followers, found that the disciples were having a hard time grasping just what it meant to enter into the new world, this Kingdom of God that Jesus was always talking about. Now, while these were younger guys, probably late teens or early 20's, they were still just a little too removed from being the type of person that the kingdom Jesus was creating was made for. So, Jesus has to set them straight.

In this passage, there was a bit of a miscommunication and an unexpected clarification for the disciples. The miscommunication was that the disciples wanted to send the parents with young children away from Jesus, presumably so that Jesus could keep doing the 'important work' that he was doing. And that is understandable, the situation at this point of the story was tense. But, the clarification that Jesus offers to the disciples, which is certainly characteristic of the type of wisdom that he often dispenses on tough topics, is far from sending the kids away. In fact, he says the disciples need to become more like the kids if they want to enter into the kingdom of God, or this new world that Jesus says he is creating. The best part is that Jesus doesn't do any explaining of what that means. You can imagine the disciples' faces. This is a fantastic bit of Jesus coaching his disciples to look deeper than simple answers can go on their own.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when you experienced childlike wonder.
- How did Jesus change the way we think about children? How do you think the disciples responded to this?
- What might it look like to focus on our relationship with God as a child focuses on their parent?
- How do you think the updated Childcare space will further our mission to young families?

**APPLICATION:** This week, spend time praying, asking God to reveal how you are being called to respond. What might it look like to wonder and focus on God like children do? Let's learn from our youngest disciples.