

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 4 Jan 2026

Text: Matthew 18:3-4; Philippians 1:6

Message: Jerry Shiver

Questions: John Brewer

In our broken world, things don't always go as planned. Pastor Ted came down with the flu and was unable to gather with us to teach the sermon he had prepared. With about 24 hours' notice, while grieving a death in the family, brother Jerry Shiver prepared a devotion using a few verses God has used to grow Jerry through his walk.

Discussion Questions:

1. In Matthew 18:1, the disciples ask, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Verses 3-4 are Jesus' answer to that question. In the very first part of his answer, Jesus requires that we "turn" or "change." Reference Hebrews 3:18, Malachi 3:6, Psalm 107:1, Isaiah 55:8, Jeremiah 17:9, Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and John 3:3. Why is it important that God does not change, but Jesus requires us to change?
2. Jerry described a story where, in the midst of the chaos of deplaning on a commercial flight, a young girl was completely at peace in her father's arms. What does it mean for us to "become like children?" Reference Proverbs 3:5 and Matthew 6:33.
3. In verse 4, Jesus requires that we humble ourselves. What is our ultimate example of this? (Reference Philippians 2:8).
4. When we evaluate ourselves against these measures of "greatness," how are we doing? What hope do we have? Reference Philippians 1:6, Hebrews 10:14, and 2 Corinthians 12:9.