

Questions for eGroup Discussion and Personal Reflection

Too Small To Ignore

November 12-13, 2016

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

How to Use This Guide in a Group Setting

Group Participants: Review your notes from the message and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you about your life. Come to eGroup prepared to participate. Watch the message online if you missed it live.

Group Leaders: Give everyone the chance to share, focusing on the questions that connect most with your group. Don't feel you must answer every question. If someone missed the message, allow time for others to fill them in on the main points and highlights.

Getting Started

What's something you're good at doing?

Is this a learned skill, something intuitive or that you inherited, or something else?

How have you seen others benefit from this?

Embrace the Gospel

Read aloud Luke 9:46-48; Psalm 68:4-6; James 1:27.

From the message and these verses, what observations/insights struck you or connected with you the most, and why? What questions do they raise? Any push-back?

Embrace the Gospel

In his message this weekend, Pastor Alan said, *“How we treat the little ones among us is how we treat Jesus. When we welcome and care for children, we are caring for Jesus. And when we don’t welcome and don’t care for children, we are doing the same to Jesus. This is more than just a lesson about the values of the kingdom. This is a window into the heart of God. Our God values children. They are precious to Him. Do we view them that way?”*

What’s your gut-level response to these statements?

During your growing-up years, how meaningfully do you feel the adults in your life engaged with you as a child?

What are some specific ways you’ve seen adults easily marginalize or trivialize the needs of children ... perhaps without even being aware of it?

In contrast, what are some specific ways you’ve seen adults express their value of children in meaningful ways?

What are some significant things you’ve learned from a child?

How have you experienced God’s heart of compassion through a child?

Who do you know that has either benefitted from or extended God's heart to a child in need as a "forever family?"

What's impacted you the most as you've watched them do this?

Take a fresh look at James 1:27 (remember the word translated "religion" actually means "worship").

In what ways is applying this verse an act of worship to God?

How might a follower of Christ become more intentional about doing this as a part of their lifestyle?

How about you and your eGroup?

At the conclusion of his message, Pastor Alan shared some statistics and gave some specific examples of ways we can take the next step in extending His heart for children in need.

Did any of these especially resonate with you or intrigue you?

If you sensed a spiritual stirring in some way, how might you begin to explore what personal involvement might look like for you?

Experience the Spirit

In response to this week's message and eGroup discussion, before praying for specific needs and requests, begin by praying together for the following:

- For children who have had their worlds thrown upside down, and need healing and/or a "forever family."
- For families you know who are fostering or have adopted.
- For families in our city that are seeking to give love and support to children in need, that they would be sustained and encouraged.
- For families in our church that are considering involvement as foster or adoptive parents, that God would give them clarity and direction in responding to His voice.

Engage in Mission

In this week's Christ Community newsletter, we inserted a sheet describing opportunities for individuals, families, and eGroups to get involved in ministering to children in need, or supporting those who are involved in foster care or adoption. Please review this as an eGroup, prayerfully considering a role your group might play in serving in mission in one of these areas.



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