

# Where Should We Prioritize Ministry Resources?

Matthew 19:13-15

## **I. We do not always appreciate the opportunity for children's ministry (v. 13).**

- A. Parents brought their children to Jesus for ministry (v. 13a).
- B. The disciples responded to the opportunity for children's ministry with annoyance (v. 13b).
- C. Children need ministry but ministering to children can be challenging.

## **II. When we appreciate the value of children in God's Kingdom, it will change how we think and what we do with the opportunity to minister to children (vv. 14-15).**

- A. When children needed ministry and the disciples responded with annoyance, Jesus corrected his disciples and ministered to the children because they represent Kingdom values (vv. 14-15).
  - 1. Jesus commanded for the children to be brought to him (v. 14a).
  - 2. Jesus prohibited the obstruction of children (v. 14b).
  - 3. Jesus ministered to children (v. 15).
  - 4. Jesus corrected his disciples and ministered to the children because they represent those who hold the Kingdom values he rewards (v. 14c).
- B. Jesus values humility in His Kingdom (Matt. 18:2-4).
  - 1. The essential requirement for entrance into God's Kingdom is child-like faith reflected by dependence on God (Matt. 18:2-3).
  - 2. God celebrates and prioritizes those who depend on him like children who depend on their parents (v. 4).
- C. Children's ministry is a matter of priority because of what they represent.

## **III. Application: Prioritize investment in the next generation!**

- A. The need.
- B. The opportunities.
- C. What are you prioritizing?