



## “Like a Child!” | Christmas Kindness: Tied With Love Not Strings

Luke 18:15-17

*“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.” - Charles Dickens*

### How should we receive the gift of Christmas?

Jesus is kind to us in order to restore relationship with us. He desires to genuinely bless us. But we cannot receive His kindness or blessings unless we receive them. That requires humility! And humility goes beyond receiving...but extending that same kindness to others.

#### Luke 18:15-17:

*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.*

*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.**”*

**The gift of Christmas kindness is Jesus in a manger.**→It was baby Jesus the shepherds & the wisemen came to see.

- Christmas is the ultimate proof of God being willing to get down on our level.→God in the flesh...A BABY!
  - Last week we saw Jesus’ kindness extended to a Zacchaeus...→Romans 2:4-5
  - This week we see Jesus’ kindness extended to children...→**Jesus gets down to their level!**
- We must become like little kids to receive the gift of Christmas kindness.→Kids WANTED JESUS!

**We receive a gift with humility.**→Matthew 18:1-5→“Wow...i don’t deserve that!”→Wow...I see God for who He is...

- Zacchaeus showed humility by turning from his sins.
- The shepherds showed humility by sharing the good news with others.
- The wisemen showed humility by bowing low and giving back.

→**Receive the gift of Christmas like a child, with humility, and then...do something about it!**

### TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What is the most memorable Christmas gift anyone has ever given to me? Why was it special?
2. How does Jesus “get down to our level” in the Christmas story? Do can we respond with humility?
3. Who does God want me to invite to a Christmas Eve service so they can experience the kindness of Jesus?
4. What does God want me to give back to Him and to others this Christmas? Where can I invest kindness?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, help us to receive the gift of Christmas this year like children!”

QUOTES / SONGS:

- "For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself." - **Charles Dickens**
- "Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give." - **Unknown**
- "In a 2018 Lifeway Research study, 65% of Americans said Christmas should be more about Jesus. While 2 in 3 may want more Christ in Christmas, most couldn't give you all the details of Jesus' birth story. Slightly more than 1 in 5 Americans (22%) say they could accurately tell the Christmas story found in the Bible from memory. A plurality of U.S. adults (31%) say they could tell the story but may miss some details or get others wrong. Another quarter (25%) could only give a quick overview and 17% say they couldn't tell any of it." - **Aaron Earls**
- "There was a small community in Mexico in which they created a manger scene at Christmas. A young girl named Pepita approached the manger where Jesus lay and began weeping because she had no gift to give the child. In some versions of the story, an angel sat down next to her and said: "as long as you give it in love, it will be accepted." So, the angel told the girl to pull weeds from the side of the road and lay them at the foot of Baby Jesus. The bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers and from that day on, the bright red flowers (poinsettias) were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night" - **Sophie Brams**

#### ARTICLES:

- "The legend behind the poinsettia Christmas flower and its special connection to Charleston" - <https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/the-legend-behind-the-poinsettia-christmas-flower-and-its-special-connection-to-the-lowcountry/>

#### SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **Galatians 5:22-23** - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** - 4 Love is patient and **kind**. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
- **Romans 2:4-5** - 4 Don't you see how wonderfully **kind**, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his **kindness** is intended to turn you from your sin? 5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18** - "And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him."

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