



Grace Notes

Guides for Personal Bible Study

Surprising Love: Babies! Seriously!

Luke 18:15-17: People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

Points to Ponder

- When you look at a newborn baby, it’s hard to imagine that something so sweet looking could be sinful. But what does the Bible clearly state about all people—including babies?
- Babies don’t understand what’s going on around them. How is it possible that they can have faith?
- Read Luke 18:17. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a little child?
- Have you ever found yourself dismissing children as unimportant in the life of a church? Jesus tells us they too have a place. Can you think of ways for the children in your congregation to serve?

The Bottom Line

Jesus made it very clear that all people—including children—need the forgiveness he has to offer. By rebuking the disciples for sending children away, he was saying that children too have worth and a purpose in his kingdom. They too can have faith because it is the power of the Holy Spirit that works that faith, not an issue of understanding faith. In fact, childlike faith is what we ought to have in order to enter heaven. We can also show Jesus’ surprising love by teaching God’s Word to the children in our lives, encouraging them to participate in worship, and finding ways for them to serve others and express their faith.

You can dig deeper into your Bible by reading more about these truths from the lesson:

- **Forgiveness for All Ages** Acts 2:38; Romans 3:23,24; 2 Corinthians 5:15; 2 Peter 3:9
- **Babies believe!** Psalm 71:6; Psalm 139:13; Matthew 18:4; Matthew 18:10; 2 Timothy 3:15
- **Baptism Creates Faith!** Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5
- **God’s Kingdom Come!** Daniel 2:44; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 13:31-33; Luke 17:21; John 3:5