

**Session 9: Jesus  
Spent Too Much  
Time with Children  
November 4, 2019 •  
Rev. Doug Gray**

**Bible Study Based on  
Leonard Sweet's *The Bad  
Habits of Jesus: Showing  
Us How to Live Right in a  
World Gone Wrong***

# **I. Introductions and Prayer**

**A. Leonard Sweet**

**writes: “Jesus  
taught a faith that  
you might call  
adultproof. Today  
we childproof our  
medicine and our  
faith, making them**

**as hard for  
children to get into  
as possible. In  
contrast, Jesus  
made faith child  
friendly and adult  
averse, meaning  
Jesus did  
everything he  
could to protect**

**children's faith  
from adults and to  
help even the most  
adultish among us  
become more  
childlike so as to  
get into the  
Kingdom without  
messing it up.”  
(pp. 114–115)**

**B. Asking God to  
come among us**

**II. Why Was Jesus  
so Fiercely  
Protective of  
Children?**

**A. Possibility: He  
learned the value  
of humility from**

**His mom? Luke**

**1:39–55**

**B.Possibility: He**

**heard about the**

**“Slaughter of the**

**Innocents”? Matt.**

**2:13–18**

**C.Possibility: He**

**had a heart for the**

**fragile. Jesus**

**heals lots of  
children.**

### **III. Jesus' New Definition of Greatness**

**A. Read Mark 9:33–  
36. What do you  
notice? What are  
your questions?**

**Are there words or phrases that resonate for you?**

**B. Do you think Jesus is upset about the disciples' competition to see who's the**



**greatest? Why or why not?**

**C. How does Jesus change the playing field with a child?**

**D. What are the qualities that Jesus seems to have in mind?**

# **IV. The Kingdom of God Is Adultproof**

**A. When are you  
most likely to lose  
patience with  
children? Have you  
noticed when  
that's true for  
others?**

**B. Mark puts two stories next to each other so that we can see more clearly.**

**C. Read Mark 10:13–16. What stands out for you?**

**D. Why do you think people were**

**bringing their  
children to Jesus?**

**E. Read Mark 10:17–  
27. What  
resonates with you  
as you read?**

**F. Why do you think  
Jesus “looked at  
him and loved  
him”?**

**G. What would you say makes the rich, young ruler “too adultish”?**

**H. Jesus doesn't usually suggest people do things before they follow Him. Why does He do it here? Why do**

**you think the  
disciples are so  
surprised by  
Jesus' response?**

**V. Conclusions —  
Jesus  
encourages us  
to come to God  
as children**

**“Jesus treated children as if their relationship with God was as important as any adult relationship. Jesus constantly sacrificed his rabbinic dignity to reduce the**

**distance between  
himself and a child.  
Jesus preached to  
the children,  
hoping the adults  
would get it.” (p.  
117)**