



Session 9: Jesus Spent Too Much Time with Children

November 4, 2019 • Rev. Doug Gray
First Church of Squantum

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)