

The Story Church - 3.12.23

A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Part Sixteen: *Childlike Faith*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: **Can Christianity be trusted?**

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: What memories, emotions, or thoughts come to mind when you think about your childhood?

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on 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. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:15-17

During Jesus' time the youth mortality rate was ___% meaning every kid had a _____ chance of reaching adulthood. How do you think this reality affected the view of children in the 1st century?

Why do you think the disciples rebuked the parents for bringing their children to Jesus?

A Childish faith _____ but a Child-like faith _____

Who are the people that we *exclude* from Jesus, whether intentionally or by accident? How can we be more *inclusive*?

"Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. 3 So watch yourselves.

Luke 17:1-3

A Childish faith is _____ but a Child-like faith is _____

In what ways does comparison creep into your faith? Who are the people you compare yourself to and why?

How do you try to earn God's love? Is it working?

A childish faith makes _____ but a child-like faith _____

What *assumptions* do you make about God or who He loves?

How does dependency, or *trust*, in God lead to delight?

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.... My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”
Proverbs 3:5-7

Reflection Questions:

How am I like the disciples, trying to control or manage Jesus?

In what area of my life do I need to radically trust God?

When was the last time I enjoyed God's presence?

** Find the full March Reading Plan at thestory.church/resources*

