

**Children & Grownups**

**Monday, 11/10/08 – Read Mark 10:13-16**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Sometimes the Bible says, "Be like a child." Sometimes the Bible says, "Be a grownup." Confusing, isn't it? ... This week we'll sort some of that out. ... Today's reading is one of Jesus' well-known statements. Notice verse 15. He's talking about RECEIVING as a child receives. Describe the way a child receives. Write down your answer. Do you receive like that? If not, what holds you back?

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**Tuesday, 11/11/08 – Read Matthew 18:1-5**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: In today's reading notice verse 3. Literally it says that we are to "turn" and become "as the small children." ... What is about children that Jesus is recommending to us? What would you say? What qualities of small children do you think Jesus may have had in mind? There are some wonderful, wonderful things about children. What are they? ... What's the difference between being "child-like" and being "childish"?

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**Wednesday, 11/12/08 – Read Ephesians 4:7,11-16**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Look at verse 14 in today's reading. This brings us to the other side: "we must no longer be

children" because children inevitably get "tossed to and fro and blown about" by unscrupulous teachers. There are some wonderful things about children. But children are also vulnerable and can be led astray. ... What is the spiritual maturity mentioned in verse 13? How would you describe spiritual maturity? How is that different from being a child?

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**Thursday, 11/13/08 – Read Ephesians 4:13  
and 1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: In the Greek New Testament (from which our English versions are translated) the same Greek word ("teleios") is translated as "maturity" in Ephesians 4:13 and as "complete" in 1 Corinthians 13:8. Does this give you some clue about becoming a spiritual grownup? Spiritual adults are moving toward completeness, wholeness, balance. Being immature is being partial, one-sided, incomplete. ... Think about it for a moment. Do you need to move beyond some "childish way" in your life?

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**Friday, 11/14/08 – Read Philipians 3:12-16**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Spiritual growth is not something we need to be anxious about. It's not something we have to achieve all at once. And we can be confident that God will guide us toward maturity, toward completeness. Verse 15 today reminds us that God will reveal it to us when we're thinking wrong about something or we're headed in the wrong direction. ... Has this happened for you recently? What's the most recent insight that God has revealed to you?

*My Faith Journal*, November 9, 2008  
Becoming Grownups #8  
***What the World Needs Now***

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**Saturday, 11/15/08 – Read 1 Corinthians 14:20**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Jesus says to be like a child in the way you receive. (See Monday's reading.) And Paul says to be an adult in the way you think. (The Greek word translated "adult" is "teleios" again -- mature, complete.) ... We need to receive God's good gifts in complete trust and confidence -- the way a child does. And, at the same time, our thinking needs to be clear and sharp -- like a smart adult. ... Does this make sense to you? How do you see these two responses working in your life? When do you receive confidently? When do you think clearly?

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**Sunday, 11/16/08 – Read James 2:18-26**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Today's reading may be a little clearer if you substitute the word "behavior" for "works." ... Give some thought to verse 22. It says that faith (trust) is brought to completion (that Greek word "teleios" again!) by behavior. ... In other words, trusting God is effective for us only when we act it out -- only when our behavior expresses our trust in God. ... We trust God the way a child trusts a loving parent. We act smart as spiritual grownups. ... Write down one way that your behavior completes your faith.

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**What do I want to remember out of today's message?**

**What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*