

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of December 20, 2015

Luke 18:15-17

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>15</sup> People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>15</sup> People were bringing babies to Jesus so that he would bless them. When the disciples saw this, they scolded them. <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus called them to him and said, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. <sup>17</sup> I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it."

### **Connection Questions:**

1. We find all throughout the 18th chapter of Luke Jesus teaches about the nature of the Kingdom of God. This was a central message of Jesus all throughout the New Testament. Why? Why was the image of the Kingdom of God threatening to some of his listeners?
2. In our text, it says the disciples were getting bothered by mothers bringing their infants to be blessed by Jesus. Why do you think they were bothered? Does the presence of infants cause problems for the church today? If so, how? How can these issues be dealt with in a Christ-like way?

3. Jesus says to the disciples, “Let these children come to me for it is to such the Kingdom of God belongs.” And then he says, “. . . whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” What are some values to relating as a child to the world? How do some of those values get watered down as we grow into adulthood?
  
4. Dr. Paul McGhee says, “Your sense of humor is one of the most powerful tools you have to make certain that your daily mood and emotional state support good health.” How does his statement relate to our scripture?
  
5. Buddy the Elf is accepting of others and seems to have this innate ability to see the joy and goodness in people. Does our relationship with God give us the ability to see joy and goodness in others? If so, how?
  
6. Author Melinda Smith and Dr. Jeanne Sigel say, “Set aside special times to seek out laughter and humor as you might with working out.” What are some strategies we can develop that can help us claim our God gifts of laughter, play, and sharing joy with others?