

STUDY GUIDE - EPISODE THREE

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

OPENING PRAYER

Isaiah 49: 13 - 16

Sing heavens! Shout for joy, earth! Let the mountains burst into song! For the Lord has comforted the people and will have compassion on God's suffering people. But the people of Jerusalem said, "The Lord has abandoned us, has forgotten us." So, the Lord answers, "'Can a woman forget her own baby or not love the child she bore? Even if a mother should forget her child, I will never forget you, Jerusalem. I can never forget you! Behold, I have carved your name on the palms of my hands.

SHEMA - PRAY TOGETHER Deut. 6: 4 - 9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you are away, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

TABLE TALK

- What impacted you most in this episode and why?
- Why do you think the children were drawn to Jesus? What stood out to you about how Jesus interacted with the children?
- God loves us the way a good parent loves their child. What are some characteristics of a good parent?
- Jesus says we must "change and become like little children" in order to enter heaven. What does he mean by that? What qualities do children have that we should seek to emulate?
- Jesus said, "What is my reason for being here? The Spirit of God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor; the Lord has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and the opening of the prison for those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." He was quoting Isaiah 61. How does Jesus' ministry apply to you?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- In this episode Jesus is seen routinely praying. What is your prayer life like? How does this portrayal of Jesus' prayer life encourage you?
- Can you talk to Jesus as carefreely as the children did in this episode? Why or why not?
- What can you do to nurture a childlike trust in Jesus?

- What are some new habits and thought patterns you need to develop in order to approach God in a more precious, faith-like-a-child way?
- It was easy for Abigail to tell her friends about Jesus. How easy is it for you? What struggles do you face when telling family and friends about Jesus? Who could I share the incredible news about Jesus with this week?
- Jesus said in the episode: "everyone has a much larger job than just their trade." Do you see yourself as having a "larger job" in this life? Describe what it is.
- Jesus prayed the bedtime Shema - pray this prayer before bed this week:
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings sleep to my eyes, slumber to my eyelids. May it be your will, Lord my God and God of my ancestors, that I lie down in peace and that I arise in peace, Let my sleep be undisturbed by troubling thoughts, bad dreams, and wicked schemes. May I have a night of tranquil slumber. May I awaken to the light of a new day, that my eyes may uphold the splendor of your light. Praised are you, Lord, whose glory gives light to the entire world. (This is followed by praying the SHEMA)

PRAYER POINTS

- Ask God to empower you to have a child-like faith - not childish - and to trust he'll help you through the hardships of life.
- Thank God that Jesus was sent to all, not only to the wealthy.
- Ask God to show you ways you can copy Jesus' willingness to engage with all people.

SCRIPTURE CONNECTIONS

- Jesus promises to make us more like him - which is exactly what he did in the lives of Mary Magdalene, Matthew and Simon. Read Gal 5: 22 - 25. What characteristics become ours through the power of the Holy Spirit?