



Approaching God

Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passages.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Slowly Read the Following Passages

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Matthew 18:1-6

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** Then He called a child to Him and had him stand among them. **3** "I assure you," He said, "unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child-this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever welcomes one child like this in My name welcomes Me. **6** "But whoever causes the downfall of one of these little ones who believe in Me-it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea!

Matthew 19:13-14

13 Then children were brought to Him so He might put His hands on them and pray. But the disciples rebuked them. **14** Then Jesus said, "Leave the children alone, and don't try to keep them from coming to Me, because the kingdom of heaven is made up of people like this."

Matthew 21:14-16

14 The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple complex, and He healed them. **15** When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonders that He did and the children in the temple complex cheering, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant **16** and said to Him, "Do You hear what these [children] are saying?" "Yes," Jesus told them. "Have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants "?

Mark 10:13-16

13 Some people were bringing little children to Him so He might touch them, but His disciples rebuked them. **14** When Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me. Don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **15** I assure you: Whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." **16** After taking them in His arms, He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

Ephesians 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. **2** Honor your father and mother -which is the first commandment with a promise- **3** that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. **4** And fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Thoughts to Ponder - Making Room for Children

Read the short essay from Kaitlin Wernet - <https://shereadstruth.com/making-room-for-children/>

“Mama, I feel like I’m upside down in a cornfield!” Maybe this is something commonly heard in motherhood, but since I’ve yet to become a mother, I wouldn’t know. Hopefully, you’re just as confused as I was when I woke up to this statement in the middle of the night. I rubbed my eyes in confusion, as it took a minute to regain my bearings and remember exactly where I was—at the beach, with one of my best friends and her three children. It was their annual beach vacation, and I’d said yes last-minute to hopping in the minivan for a few days of saltwater and sunshine before the rest of the family arrived. I didn’t have to be a mother to know that a seven-hour road trip with three kids is some kind of miracle. Ours was completed with only one short episode of crying and one small snack-spilling incident. Victorious, we’d tossed aside our sandals and rolled up our jeans at the first sight of ocean. We splashed around in the dark until we could barely keep our eyes open.

Our cozy hotel room was filled with baby snuggles and loud giggles. It was a world away from my quiet apartment at home, and I loved making room for every sweet moment. I was letting the little children come to me and received cuteness and cuddles—a serious benefit—in return. But upon waking up in the middle of the night, the scene was a little different. A flipped light-switch signaled that the “upside down in a cornfield” child was awake and not dreaming. Her tiny whimper and the worried look on her mama’s face confirmed the girl’s sudden sickness and strange hallucination. Their hurried footsteps headed for the bathroom, where baby brother’s travel crib was still blocking the toilet. That’s when I remembered that I’d been sharing a water bottle with the sweet, sickly child all day long, which meant I was probably halfway to a “cornfield” myself.

Small things sometimes turn out to be the most significant and, well, contagious—especially when they have hearts that beat like yours and mine. Making room for children is hard because we never stop being children ourselves. We never stop needing our Father. We struggle to make room even for ourselves, only to see that He already has, again and again.

This is why it’s important to make room for the children tugging on our shirts and hanging on our legs even—especially—if they aren’t living in our homes. The parent-child relationship is one of the most prevalent themes in Scripture. Shouldn’t it be one of the most prevalent themes in our lives? We should care for these little ones Jesus loves so dearly. Even when it means getting messy. Even when it means waking up in the middle of the night. Even when it means being upside down in a cornfield. Isn’t that what He does for us? God knew us when we were formless ([Psalm 139:16](#)). He prepared praise from our mouths as infants ([Matthew 21:16](#)). He asks us simply to come to Him ([Matthew 19:14](#)). May we do the same for others, especially when they are small, for they are not small to Him. Amen.

Daily Reflection Questions

1. What do today’s passages tell us about making room for children?
2. How can we make room for children? Where is the Lord calling you to do that in new ways?

Close in Prayer:

Can you think of a specific child or group of children for who you can make room? Pray for this child, thanking God that He created every person in His image, giving them worth, value, and dignity. Ask God to give you a soft heart toward this child and courage to make room for them in your life.