
Matthew Chapter 18

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have your parents ever told you to, “stop acting like a child!” Or, “Stop being childish”? What does it mean when someone says that? What were you doing when it was said to you?

- b. Why do some adults smile when they talk about a child that is very mature for their age? Why do you think some adults want kids to grow up quickly?

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter Jesus talks a lot about how we should all become like little children and He also talks a lot about protecting children and being humble like them. What do you think Jesus means by all the references to little children?

Do you think Jesus is being overprotective of children? Why/why not?

What do you think is the difference between being child-like and being childish?

In this chapter Jesus also teaches on forgiveness. Here Jesus tells a parable about someone who was forgiven a great deal who then in turn refused to forgive some who owed him a relatively small amount. Why do you think this is such a terrible thing to do?

Do you know of many children that hold grudges or is that something that people learn as they grow up? Explain.

Does being forgiving have anything to do with being childlike? Explain?

Do you know of many children that hold grudges or is that something that people learn as they grow up? Explain.

What do you think is the ideal level of maturity to reach?

Is it better to be more flexible and open to new ideas and risk making mistakes or is it better to just go with what has worked for you in the past because you have always been able to trust it? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think of the times in your life when you have seen God's power and noticed His activity around you? Take a look at your life and try to determine how open you are to change and new things. Do you think you would be open to the Holy Spirit leading you in a direction you and your parents have never gone before or do you prefer to go with what is familiar to your friends and family? If you felt completely convicted that you felt God calling you to be a missionary to a foreign land how hard would it be for you to drop everything here in America and go?

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to help you to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you to be open to whatever He sees best for you to do in this life. Ask Him to take away your fears and prejudices and to help you to be free to follow the Spirit wherever He may go.

5. Outreach Idea

Go to the Adventist Frontier Missions website (<http://www.afmonline.org/missionaries/>) and choose a missionary to read about and follow. Also browse the People of Peru website (<http://www.peopleofperu.org>) and read about volunteers like yourself that have gone on short-term mission trips. Choose a missionary to write and possibly send a care package to. Inquire about adopting a child to support on one of these websites or on the <http://restoreachild.org> site.