

Like a little child

LK 18:15-17 People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

As Art Linkletter said, kids say the most wonderful things sometimes. My little grandchild Maurius was getting into the car one day when the Santa Ana winds caught the door and whipped it shut unexpectedly hitting him in the head in the process. He wasn't hurt but just shaken and turned to my daughter and said, "Next time let's take separate cars".

"All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten" is a book of short essays by Robert Fulghum, first published in 1986.

I think that they need come up with a sequel of that book with a slightly different title. Something like, "I learned all I need to know about life and faith from my three year old grandchild."

This last week I was in my car taking my grandson Marius on one of the little trips we go on each week to see or do something together. Now I have to admit I was really pre-occupied and thinking about a lot of other things this week and was really not concentrating on our time together as we drove out to Lake Perris to see the ducks. Normally, I have a children's praise CD that I have playing in the car that has a lot of wonderful Christian Children's songs but I had forgotten to turn that on. I hear a little voice from the back of the car saying, "Where's our music grandpa?" He wanted to hear the music of the praise kids singing about Jesus and faith.

We maneuvered through the traffic and I began to think about work and all the problems there and the projects and the impossible deadlines. I guess I kind of rested my head on my left hand against the window sill as we drove on through the traffic. And then the little voice came from the back seat again. "What's wrong grandpa?" Marius knew something was wrong. It was at this point that grandpa lied - I told him I had a headache. I told him that if he remembered when he prayed later he could pray for grandpa's headache. Now I was figuring that I would probably be prayed for later that night if he even remembered at all. And then I heard the little voice from the back seat came again. "God please help grandpa to feel better- Amen".

We drove on a bit further and again the little voice, this time saying "Tell me the story about Samuel sleeping." This is his request for his favorite bible story about the first time that God spoke to Samuel. I told the story and then he wanted to hear it again so I did a replay.

As we reached our destination I realized I had not imparted anything to him that day but he had taught me. I realized why Jesus said to model our lives of faith after little children. If we sing songs of praise to God, if we identify needs of others and immediately pray for their hurts, if we remember what God has done in our lives and read the stories of faith in the bible, we need do no more. I have made the Christian life way too complicated - to Marius it is simple.

Richard Lewis
Pathway Christian Church
Riverside, CA