

Children Coming to Jesus

Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:14-16

Creating opportunities for children and their families to grow close to Jesus is something we value here at Prince of Peace/Príncipe de Paz. That's why we do Vacation Bible School. That's why we have confirmation instruction. That's why we offer Sunday School. That's why we love coming alongside families to coach and equip them in passing the faith on to the next generation.

That is also why in 1960 we at Prince of Peace began our Preschool Ministry: to shape the lives of families and to reach children with the love of Jesus. Some 60+ years later our Preschool and Child Development Center has completed its five-year reaccreditation process with the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. The whole process helped us remember *why* we do what we do, affirmed *how* we go about the process of sharing Jesus as we teach and nurture children, and highlighted *what* we can continue to do to become even more effective.

Jesus' words to His disciples about helping children come to Him couldn't have been more clear: He loves all, especially the little ones ("the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"). He is never too busy or preoccupied to spend time with children. And we all need to have a faith that is childlike.

There is real value in helping children come to Jesus, chief among which is in reminding all of us that we are children of God. ("See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1) Our Father in heaven, who gave everything for us—even His own Son—calls us His children and leads us to freely pour His love out into the lives of others.

Will you join me in continual prayer asking the Lord to fulfill His purposes in us at PoP/PdeP as we help bring children to Jesus? Will you also ask the Lord how you personally can be engaged in doing so?

As you do, anticipate that you'll see the Lord's work—yourself being shaped by the Spirit to receive the kingdom of God in like manner as a little child: trusting Jesus and being filled with His joy and life.

~ Pastor Ken | Senior Pastor