

Childlike Traits

Matthew 18:1-3

1 In that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of
Heaven?” 2 Jesus called a little child to himself,
and set him in their midst, 3 and said, “Most
certainly I tell you, unless you turn, and become
as little children, you will in no way enter into the
Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:4-5

4 Whoever therefore humbles himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. 5 Whoever receives one such little child in my name receives me, (WEB)

Luke 18:15-16

15 They were also bringing their babies to him, that he might touch them. But when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 Jesus summoned them, saying, “Allow the little children to come to me, and don’t hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (WEB)

Luke 18:17

17 Most certainly, I tell you,
whoever doesn't receive the Kingdom of God
like a little child,
he will in no way enter into it.” (WEB)

A little child...
trusts

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will
make your paths straight. (NIV)

John 14:1

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God,
and trust also in me. (NLT)

Psalms 118:8-9

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in humans.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. (NIV)

Little children
find it easy to trust...

But as we get older,
we get hurt by people

People violate our trust
The pain causes us to become
untrusting and cynical

**My children used to love to
jump off the stairs into my arms.**

**They had no trouble believing that I
would catch them**

**Now that they are adults,
they wouldn't be as confident**

**God has made a promise
to care for us...**

**When we don't believe him,
we don't trust him**

**If my wife makes me a promise
and I refuse to believe it**

**Father wants to restore
childlike trust to us!**

**He wants to bring healing
to areas of broken trust**

**He wants us to be able
to trust again**

A little child is...

care free!

**Adults have many things
to worry about**

70-80% of illness stress-related

75% of things we worry about never

Matthew 6:27

“Which of you, by being anxious,
can add one moment to his lifespan?

(WEB)

Luke 8:14

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. (NIV)

**Why little children
shouldn't worry...**

Matthew 6:25-26

25 Therefore, I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. **Aren't you of much more value than they?** (WEB)

1 Peter 5:7

casting all your worries on him,
because he cares for you.

(WEB)

Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on Yahweh,
and he will sustain you.
He will never allow the righteous
to be moved. (WEB)

A little child is...

dependent

John 5:19-20

19 Jesus therefore answered them, “Most certainly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing. For whatever things he does, these the Son also does likewise. 20 For the Father has affection for the Son, and shows him all things that he himself does. He will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

(WEB)

John 15:5

I am the vine. You are the branches.
He who remains in me, and I in him, the same
bears much fruit, for apart from me
you can do nothing. (WEB)

A little child is...

weak

2 Cor. 12:7

7 By reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted excessively, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, that I should not be exalted excessively. (WEB)

2 Cor. 12:8-9

8 Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me. (WEB)

2 Cor. 12:10

10 Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake.

For when I am weak, then am I strong. (WEB)

**‘God begins where
human effort ends’**

**George Mueller
Founder of UK Orphanage**

Psalms 103:13-14

13 Like a father has compassion on his children,
so Yahweh has compassion on those who fear
him. 14 For he knows how we are made.
He remembers that we are dust. (WEB)

A little child is...

humble

Matthew 18:4

Whoever therefore humbles himself
as this little child,
the same is the greatest
in the Kingdom of Heaven. (WEB)

James 4:6

But he gives more grace.
Therefore it says, “God resists the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.” (WEB)

Philippians 2:5-7

5 Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied himself**, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.

(WEB)

Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (WEB)

Matthew 20:27-28

27 Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your bondservant, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (WEB)

John 14:28

You heard how I told you, ‘I go away, and I come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I said ‘I am going to my Father;’ **for the Father is greater than I.**

(WEB)

A little child lives in...

simplicity

Psalms 131:1-2

1 Yahweh, my heart isn't haughty, nor my eyes lofty; nor do I concern myself with great matters, or things too wonderful for me. 2 Surely I have stilled and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. (WEB)

A little child loves to...

play!

Romans 14:17

for the Kingdom of God
is not eating and drinking,
but righteousness, peace, and joy
in the Holy Spirit. (WEB)

Luke 15:7

I tell you that even so **there will be more joy in heaven** over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. (WEB)

Luke 15:29

But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. (NIV)

Luke 15:31

“‘My son,’ the father said,
‘you are always with me,
and everything I have is yours. (NIV)

A little child knows how to...

rest

Psalm 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations.
I will be exalted in the earth.” (WEB)

Our orphan belief systems...

**We have to work for everything
Our value comes from what we do
I am responsible for everything**

**God is pleased with me
only when I am working**

Exodus 14:14

The Lord will fight for you;
you need only to be still.” (NIV)

Hebrews 4:9-11

9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered into his rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. (WEB)

A little child has an unlimited...

imagination

1 Cor. 2:9-10

9 However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—
10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. (NIV)

Isaiah 55:9

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (WEB)

John 14:12

Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father. (WEB)

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (NIV)

A little child is...

vulnerable

**It takes vulnerability
to love and be loved...**

**You can get hurt
and you can hurt others.**

**God has opened up His heart
and He wants us to as well.**

A little child is...

innocent

Matthew 10:16

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. (NIV)

A little child is...

persistent

Matthew 7:7-8

7 “Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened for you. 8 For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened. (WEB)

Matthew 7:9-11

9 Or who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (WEB)

A little child is...

defenceless

Psalms 91:1-2

1 He who dwells in the secret place
of the Most High will rest in the shadow
of the Almighty. 2 I will say of Yahweh,
“He is my refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.” (WEB)

Psalms 91:3-4

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers.

Under his wings you will take refuge His faithfulness is your shield and rampart. (WEB)

A little child is a...

love sponge

1 John 3:1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
(NIV)

2 Corinthians 6:18

And, “I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.” (NIV)

**Are you willing to become
childlike in your relationship
with God?**



About Barry & Ann:

Barry and Ann Adams started Father Heart Communications in 2000 to facilitate the unexpected growth of a sermon illustration called 'Father's Love Letter' that had unexpectedly reached millions of people at www.FathersLoveLetter.com

They have been sharing the message of God's Father heart through international travel and the ongoing development of media resources that are freely available at... fathersloveletter.com, 365promises.com, fatherheart.tv and aboutfathersbusinesss.com

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