

Small Group Discussion Guide

Childlike Faith | Part 1: Open Hands, Ready Hearts | Message by: Tori VanderPloeg

BIG Idea: Childlike faith requires humility, surrender, and trust—even when life brings pride, process, and pain. True healing and transformation come when we open our hands and ready our hearts to receive from God.

Application: Let go of pride, trust God in the process, and allow Him to meet you in your pain. Like Naaman, take the step of obedience—even when it’s uncomfortable—because that’s where healing begins.

Icebreaker:

What’s something you loved doing as a child that reminded you to be open, trusting, or teachable?

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus tells us to become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:1–5). What are some qualities of children that reflect the kind of faith God desires?
2. In what ways do we struggle to receive from God with open hands? What gets in the way?
3. The message pointed out that children are naturally eager to help. How does that challenge your view of service in God’s kingdom?
4. Read Luke 18: 15–17. What does it look like to “receive the kingdom like a little child” in real life?
5. What are some areas of your life where you’ve been more “tight-fisted” than “open-handed”?
6. How do you discern when God is asking you to serve versus when He’s asking you to receive?
7. What does it practically look like to keep your heart soft and ready? How can we support each other in this?
8. How do we model childlike faith in a way that inspires the next generation?
9. Where is God inviting you to loosen your grip this week—in trust, generosity, control, or identity?

Prayer Prompt:

Close your group by praying that God would help each of you adopt the posture of a child: open hands to receive, ready hearts to trust, and a willingness to both give and grow. Pray for soft hearts, bold obedience, and renewed joy in following Jesus with childlike wonder.