



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 2

In our second week of the series *I Want to See Jesus*, Pastor Gary related our desire to see Jesus to the ability of children to approach Jesus. How do you come to Jesus? Are you full of expectation or doubtful? As Gary said, kids are more likely to be fearless and ask more questions. Do you have questions for Jesus? Give it a go. He invites you to sit with him. Ask, seek, and find life in him.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

*God, pour Your Spirit out on me today.
Let me see you moving, give me fresh eyes of wonder and curiosity.
Give me faith like a child.
Move in my life, O Lord!
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 10.21

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. (NIV)

At that, Jesus rejoiced, exuberant in the Holy Spirit. "I thank you, Father, Master of heaven and earth, that you hid these things from the know-it-alls and showed them to these innocent newcomers. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way. (The Message)

- Much of what Jesus taught was focused on this distinction between those who believe they have it figured out and those who come to God with an openness and wonder. If you've been a follower of Jesus for some time, you might have noticed a shift in different seasons of faith. Where you once were full of fire and curiosity, you are now more confident in your knowledge than in your need for God. If this is (or has ever been) you, know that Jesus is inviting you back to a child-like faith. **How childlike is your faith these days? Do you notice God's presence and power or do you find yourself going through long periods of absence?**
- *Jesus, you have given yourself to us as a sign that God meets us in ways that inspire wonder and awe. May I be filled with wonder and awe today. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 10.22-24

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

- The full identity of God can not be known apart from Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals God the Father to us. His original disciples saw this with their own eyes. They were common men and women who saw what others hoped to see and hear, but could not. As a child recounts the good things about the day they just experienced, he or she is seeing and hearing them again. The goodness of God is magnified in those who share about God with the joy and exuberance of a child. **Have you ever been so amazed by God that you felt great joy in sharing it with others?**
- *Jesus, I want to see and hear from you. So may I see and hear the miracles, both big and small, that you are performing all around me everyday. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 18.15-17

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

- Here, Jesus was following up on his previous parable (Luke 18.9-14) that showed the effects of a humble and contrite heart. The pharisee in the parable was unable to see his own need for forgiveness, while the tax collector was penitent before God. A child is more likely to lay down pretenses (or have less of them to lay down). Receiving the grace of God is kid's business. **When are you most aware of your need for God?**
- *God, I need you every hour of my life. Forgive me for the times I depend solely on myself, and free me for a life of leaning on You. Amen.*

THURSDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 13.11-12

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

- We can maintain our childlike faith while still growing in awareness of who God is. It is a sign of healthy maturity to know that we don't know everything. We don't see all that there is to see about God, and yet we strive for a day when we will. **What or who keeps you grounded and humble? What keeps you motivated to see God more clearly?**
- *Jesus, I long for your return. I long for the Kingdom of God. For now, keep me humble and inspired to see you as you truly are. Amen.*

FRIDAY: JOSHUA 4.19-22

On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.²¹ He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?'²² tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

- By placing twelve stones from the bottom of the Jordan river at Gilgal, Joshua was inspiring future questions from children. Children are the ones who ask big questions like "Why is the sky blue?" or "Why can't I see the wind?" or "Why are these 12 stones here?". These questions are an opportunity to learn. In the case of the twelve stones, it is an opportunity to learn about the miracle of God to create a dry crossing of the Jordan, and (by extension) an opportunity to share about the saving of God's people through the Red Sea. **What markers have you placed to inspire questions of faith from others?**
- *God of our rescue, may I stumble across stones of remembrance today and everyday. Point me to the story of your salvation. Amen.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 12.20-24

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ *Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

- These verses find Jesus in an intense moment. The Greek travelers had heard about Jesus and wanted to see for themselves. It's something a child might say. "Show me!" But when the request came to Jesus, he was focused on the big picture. He wasn't sent by God to entertain each individual request but to offer salvation to the whole world. He had to die so that the gift of salvation might reach all of humanity. **Have you heard stories of what Jesus has done? Have you ever said, "I want to see Jesus"?**
- *Jesus, I want to see you. On this side of your resurrection, I know that there is evidence of your life all around me. Wake me up to all that you are doing today. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

A child doesn't often ask just one question. No answer is really good enough for a big question. A common follow up question for a child is, "Yeah, but uh...why?" Your answer to the question, "Why is the sky blue?" is probably not satisfactory. Even with all the scientific jargon, the question remains. Use the space below to list common questions that children ask. How might each one become a sign that points to God's activity?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.