

## THINK LIKE A CHILD

Just as a child instinctively trusts its parents, we can place our complete faith and trust in God.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ As our children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews grow, we teach them a very important lesson: "Despite the challenges that may come your way, always put your trust in God."
- ❖ If disaster hits and you have no idea what tomorrow may bring, put your trust in God. If sickness ravages your body and you are blinded by pain, trust in God.
- ❖ If you are elevated to the heights of human achievement and your name is on every tongue, put your trust in God. And if you create the next internet phenomenon that makes you an overnight billionaire, put your trust in God and God alone.
- ❖ These are such simple statements, and yet, so profound. Our trust and faith in God should be our default position. It doesn't matter who we are or what we are, where we've been or what we've done—we all need to say with the full assurance of faith: "In God We Trust." That's how a child thinks.
- ❖ We see and meet a lot of nervous, frightened people around us these days, wondering what's coming next in this pandemic that has swept our world.
- ❖ Many are wondering if this is the end of time, with coronavirus being a sign of God's displeasure and judgment against humanity's sinfulness.
- ❖ Well, here is some good advice for you, something that will help you survive and thrive with a calm assurance for today and hope for tomorrow:

### THINK LIKE A CHILD!

- ❖ Trusting God should be as natural as a child placing their trust in a parent. Our infants and toddlers quickly come to realize that parents are the constant reality in their lives, meeting all of their needs.
- ❖ A child may sleep through a storm if they sense their parents' presence, yet panic when all else is well, if they do not. You see, their trust is not dependent on the surrounding circumstances. It is dependent on the presence of the one(s) in whom they trust!
- ❖ According to the Reader's Digest, there are a number of signs you can observe that indicate your infant child trusts you (and we can apply all of these signs to our faith and trust in our Heavenly Father):
  - ❖ Your baby finds comfort in your arms.
    - A crying child is often quieted by the comfort they find in their parent's arms. We feel this closeness and presence of God as we worship and offer praise to Him. His arms are the safest place for a child of God to be.
  - ❖ You are a safe base for your baby.
    - As your child crawls or walks around their environment, they often return to mom or dad—their home base, so to speak. We also can try our hand at new experiences as we spread our wings and experience more of life. But we always return to the word of God as the safe base that lets us know we are still in the orbit of God's will and plan for us.

### KEY SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:5-6

- ❖ Your baby cries with expectation.
  - When a child has a need, it cries out to its parent. This equates to prayer in the life of a Christian. We cry out to God in expectation that He will hear and answer our prayers.
- ❖ Your baby has separation anxiety.
  - If someone they don't know takes a child away from its parent, you can expect an immediate reaction—crying, fear, distrust—"separation anxiety." Our daily time of prayer and devotion in God's presence keeps us close to Him and helps us avoid any feeling of separation.
- ❖ Your baby stares at you.
  - You will often find your baby watching you with complete attention and fascination. Let's keep our eyes fully focused on Jesus! (See 2 Corinthians 3:18.)
- ❖ Your baby smiles and laughs.
  - A child's joy and contentment are often displayed as they smile, gurgle and laugh when their parent is close or touches them. Our time in the presence of God should have a similar effect. There should be no such thing as an unhappy Christian! Our outward demeanor should always demonstrate the righteousness, peace and joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit bubbling up inside us.
- ❖ Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us of our need to:
  - Trust in the Lord
  - Refrain from leaning on our own understanding
  - Acknowledge Him in all our ways
  - Know that He will direct our paths
- ❖ All four of these components are crucial for us to observe and practice. Our trust in the Lord will get us through these trying times. We do not need to worry or fear. Our lives are in His hands and we are safe in His arms. All of our worries and fears will fade into insignificance if we think like a child.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. We have all "thought like a child." Recall and share instances where you:  
Found comfort in God's arms; returned to your "safe base" after spreading your wings; cried out to God to answer your prayer; experienced separation anxiety when you strayed from God's presence; smiled and laughed because of the joy you experience in God's presence.

### Prayer Time



Thank you, Lord, for Your presence in my life. In the times when I am afraid, I know that I can run to You and find safety, peace and security in Your arms.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)  (New idea)  (Think about)

! (Do this)  (Speaks to my heart)  (Must share)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Go deeper with your Life Group family.*  
**CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD**

Start-up: What was your favourite activity/place/game/food as a child?