

## WITH THE EYES OF A CHILD

There is all the difference between being childish and being childlike. As a Christian, we know to receive the Kingdom of God is to receive like a little child. Firstly, they are so very trusting. All my fifteen grandchildren have been very trusting that Nana or Pa would keep them safe when on a swing or in the pool, when we were in charge. It did not ever occur to anyone that we might drop them or let them get hurt. Nana and Pa are there, they love me, therefore no need to be afraid. It is simple logic, but true none the less, I am sure that Jesus thought, 'If only the grown-ups would trust me in the same way.' His arms are more reliable and more secure than ours. The trouble is that, as we grow older, our trust is less easily given. Our society and its pressures make us suspicious and cynical, and even if we long to be trusting, something inside asks, 'What's the catch?' Instead of reaching out, we withdraw and we pretend it is better to be self-sufficient.

Secondly, my grandchildren, seem to live in a world of straight forward blacks and whites. Things are either good or bad, nice or nasty, fun or boring. Few shades of grey, and that makes decision-making so much easier, issues are clear and there's no clutter to get in the way. Do you see what Jesus must have meant? So often we adults have our minds so cluttered up that what really matters in life is blurred and obscured, we can't see the wood for the trees, we can't see Jesus for ifs and buts and maybes. Don't let us be too proud to be childlike.

Encountering Jesus does not mean intellectual suicide. The Bible refers to God by several different names, all of which teach separate facets of His character, but of all



His names, I think God the Shepherd is the most lovely. Sheep are silly creatures, but the shepherd understands them and loves them despite it. Remember that the only reason we can regard ourselves highly is because God regards us highly. It is remarkable but true nevertheless. But despite what we are, He LOVES us as his little children. By Lia Unmack.

*"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* (Matt 18:3-4)

