

# JESUS & THE OPEN HEART

LUKE 18

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

Come to Jesus with an open heart—a childlike, simple, honest faith. Jesus will receive and forgive you.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

In this message, Pastor Greg shared about Jesus' interaction with little children and the rich young ruler, showing what it means to approach Him with faith and surrender. These stories of young people coming to Jesus show the importance of approaching Jesus with an open heart.

**What are the similarities and differences of how the young children and the rich young ruler approached Jesus and responded to Jesus?**

**What does it mean to come to Jesus with an open heart? How have you done this?  
What prohibits people from coming to Jesus with an open heart?**

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 18:15-17

***Jesus loves little children, and so should we. Why did the disciples try to prohibit children from coming to Jesus, and why did this anger Jesus? How did Jesus use this as an example to describe the Kingdom of God?***

***We need to bring our children to Jesus. What does it mean to “train up” a child (Proverbs 22:6)? How can parents create a spiritual thirst in their children? How can parents avoid hypocrisy?***

***We must become like a child. Why is this a requirement for the Kingdom of God? How does this depict the way we come to God? What is the difference between being childlike and childish?***

## **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 18:18-23**

***The rich young ruler was powerful and independent but saw something unique and special in Jesus that deeply touched him. What do you think drew this man to Jesus? How did Jesus look at him (Mark 10:21)?***

***Jesus challenged the rich young ruler's opening statement. Why did Jesus respond with the commandments, and which ones did He reference? As Pastor Greg explained, how do God's commandments "open your eyes and shut your mouth"?***

***Jesus pointed out the primary sin in this man's life. What was his sin, and how did it prohibit him from coming to Jesus with an open heart? How is this sin still influential today (1 Timothy 6:10)?***

***The rich young ruler went on his way full of sorrow. What was the main reason for this? How does this compare to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:39)? What is the difference between responding to Jesus with gladness or sadness?***

## **APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Pastor Greg shared the importance of young people coming to Jesus, particularly young men. According to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, how should men act? In what ways was Jesus the strongest man to ever live, and why is He the ultimate definition of masculinity?**

**How have you learned to have a childlike faith—to come to God with complete honesty and in complete helplessness? What may prevent you from doing this sometimes, and how can you grow in dependence on the Lord?**

## **PRAYER**

Give thanks that Jesus welcomes your open heart and responds with love. As a child of God, pray to your Father in Heaven and bring your needs before Him.