

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

September 13, 2009

The world of a child

by David King

"Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. . . . Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil" (1 Kgs. 3:7, 9).

When Solomon took over the throne of Israel, God offered him anything he wanted. Solomon responded with a most unusual request. More than wealth or power, he wanted wisdom to lead his people justly. His new role did not go to his head; instead, it filled him with trepidation. "I am a little child" was Solomon's confession of inadequacy.

But it was exactly the right attitude the young king needed. God granted Solomon's request, and the "little child" went on to become the wisest king who ever lived.

Jesus often used children as role models for His disciples. We cannot reach heaven unless we are "converted and become as little children" (Matt. 18:3; cf. Mk. 10:14-15). John the Baptist's mission was to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" (Lk. 1:17). There is something about children that makes them a perfect illustration of what God wants us to be.

But what is that special quality about children that we should emulate? Even though every one of us passed through that phase once in our lives, we struggle to appreciate this lesson because we have forgotten what it means to be a kid.

We need to take the time to study children and learn again how they deal with life. Doing

so will challenge our jaded grown-up outlook on things. Consider some examples:

Children are very **inquisitive**. They are eager to learn, to grow, to explore their surroundings. Every new day promises new surprises, and they usually embrace these challenges with enthusiasm. Unlike adults, children have no concept of getting stuck in a rut.

Children **make no pretenses**. They are ignorant of much about the world, and they know it. That explains the exasperating "Why?" question they're always asking. It doesn't bother them at all to admit they don't know everything, so they have no problem asking authority figures for help. Adults, in contrast, become quite good at pretending they know everything.

Children are **incapable of holding grudges**. Oh, sure, they can squabble with their playmates over the most trivial issues (see the definition of "childish"). But the issue is quickly forgotten and everyone is soon best friends again. When was the last time you saw an adult do that?

Finally, children are incurably **positive**. They are naturally happy, cheerful, and playful. They have an exuberance about life that infects everything they do. The world may be a big, mysterious place, full of things they do not understand. But unlike adults, they do not waste time worrying about those things. They are too busy enjoying the things they do understand.

The world of a child is a fascinating place to live. We grown-ups would do well to return there — if we dare.