

How did Jesus offer welcome?

Watch Video 5 Children and Young People: Charlotte Dove interviews some children and young people <https://youtu.be/jN2wKrLCXk0>

FRIDAY – Children and Young People

In the video Charlotte interviews some of the young people and children who she works with, and a number of things struck me:

- The importance of **community**: For these young people, the importance of being and spending time together was an essential part of church life.
- **Reality**: When talking about teaching, they were interested in how they can live their lives as Christians, on life skills and how to talk about their faith.
- **Valuing one another**: The importance of listening to each other. These young people were clearly enthusiastic, and their faith and church and I wonder of part of the reason why is that they can participate and be involved in services.
- **Fun** was mentioned a number of times!

For Reflection

Mark 10.13-16: The disciples tried to stop people bringing children to be blessed by Jesus. Jesus responded by saying that 'the Kingdom of God belonged to such as these' and that we need to receive the Kingdom of God like little children.

John 6.8-9: The feeding of the 5000 starts with a boy being willing to share his loaves and fishes

Luke 8.40-56: Jesus raises Jairus' daughter from the dead

Questions for Discussion

1. If we need to become more like children to enter the kingdom of God, why don't we spend more time listening to and learning from them about faith?
2. Thinking about the importance of community, reality, valuing and fun in the lives of young people, how prominent are these things in the life of our churches? Are these some of the things we need to learn from children so we can discover more of what following Jesus means?
3. Are we willing to let young people and children share what God has given them, whether it is loaves and fishes, talents and gifts, hope, the importance of friendships etc?
4. We don't know the name of Jairus' daughter. Jesus values her so much but the disciples either hadn't remembered or weren't told her name and so it wasn't recorded in the gospels. How can we value our children and young people more?

Pray

- Do we need to repent of our attitude towards children & Young people in church? Have we seen them as people to get out of the way so we can enjoy a proper service rather than people we need to learn from and be inspired by?
- For our young people and children as they try to live out their faith in a complex world.
- That God would help us to see ways that we can let children and young people have a say and provide leadership in our churches.