

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 3

Law/Gospel

In my sinful foolishness, I prize self-sufficiency and believe I can take care of myself, looking to the things of this world to satisfy and save me. **God knows that I am like a helpless child who can do nothing to save myself. In His love, He provides all that I need for this body and life, working salvation for me through His Son.**

Bible Words

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14

Fun Fact

We think of the kingdom of God, where Christ rules, in three ways:

1. **A kingdom of power.** As divine Creator, Christ rules all creation and all creatures by His almighty power. This kingdom includes all people, believers and unbelievers.
2. **Kingdom of grace.** Christ's Church on earth includes all believers who serve Him because of God's gift of faith. We call it the Church Militant.
3. **Kingdom of glory.** Christ rules the Church Triumphant, all Christians who have died (saints) and the angels in heaven.

Jesus Blesses the Little Children

Mark 10:13–16

Welcome Little Ones

Jesus and His disciples returned to a house after a full day. Discussion of the day's events and the disciples' questions followed.

Unexpected company arrived, people with children who wanted Jesus to bless them. The disciples rebuked them, probably trying to protect their Lord. When Jesus heard this, He was indignant. He said to let the children in, took them in His arms, and blessed them.

Using this teachable moment, Jesus continued, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" (v. 15). *Paidion*, the Greek word translated as "children," literally means "infants, little ones." This is one of the many reasons the Church baptizes infants.

The kingdom of God belongs to those who recognize their inability to enter it by their own strength or works. We come to the Lord through the mercy of God, and receive Him by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9).

"Kingdom of God" and "kingdom of heaven" describe God's rule in people's hearts through the Holy Spirit. Jesus' spiritual kingdom results from the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation through Him. It is not an earthly kingdom like Kings Herod or David had.

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Luther's Small Catechism

cph.org/SundaySchool

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