

The Jesus Way

The Jesus Way: The Way of the Child

March 14th & 15th

Speaker: Dr. Mark Batterson

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-5

Series Overview

Our church is coming together this Lent to practice the Jesus way. Each week, we'll be learning a new element of the way of Jesus together during weekend services, and we'll set aside time, both collectively and as individuals, to respond to and dive deeper into who Jesus is and who we are in Him. Sign up at ncc.re/TheWay to receive a devotional guide each Monday through Saturday with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices centered around the Jesus way.

Series Discussion Question

What struck you about this week's way of Jesus this week?
What does it look like to put that into practice?

Message Overview

As we age, pieces of our personality are held hostage by painful moments in our past. Jesus came to set the captive free—the inner child within each one of us. It's never too late to be who you might have been.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

What is something that stuck out to you from this message?

What is the difference between convergent and divergent thinking? How are childlike wonder and childlike joy innate to the way of the child?

There's a stark contrast between how many times a child laughs and how many times an adult laughs in a day. What are some small things you could introduce in your life to allow for more laughter?

In what ways have you let your history hold you back? What pieces of your personality are being held hostage by painful moments from your past?

Is it easy or difficult for you to imagine yourself being welcomed into Jesus' presence to receive his blessing? How come?

Pastor Mark said, "There never has been and never will be anyone like you. That isn't a testament to you. It's a testament to the God who created you." How can we best celebrate the unique image of God that we bear?

Practical Application

- Spend time this week praying the Litany of Humility that Pastor Mark shared:

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being admired above others,

From the desire of being praised more than You,

From the desire of being accepted by men more than by You,

From the desire of being consulted,

From the desire of being well-known,

From the desire of being honored,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being criticized.

From the fear of being ridiculed,

From the fear of being humiliated,

From the fear of being falsely accused,

From the fear of being disbelieved,

From the fear of being forgotten,

In Jesus name, amen.

- Spend time in prayerful reflection. Read out loud: "You are God's beloved son/daughter in whom he is well pleased."
 ...When you hear these words, is there any twinge of disbelief?
 ...What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you about your inner child?
 ...What is the Holy Spirit challenging you to let him heal?
 ...What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you is the next step to releasing the chains that may be holding back your childlike faith?

Read out loud again: "You are God's beloved son/daughter in whom he is well pleased." Allow the Holy Spirit to seal God's unshakable love for you in your heart.

- Continue to engage with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices throughout the week by subscribing to The Jesus Way: A Daily Practice at ncc.re/TheWay.