

We come now to a special time in our gathering where we are going to focus our attention on the Xxx family, and especially little Bb...

Let me read for us of a particular encounter Jesus & his followers & some families.

**Mark 10.13-16**

***People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.***

***When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.***

***He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.***

***I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."***

***And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.***

**children matter. (according to Jesus)**

The disciples probably thought they were doing Jesus a favour shooing away the children.... they were just children... a nuisance... Jesus was important... he had more important things to deal with.

But Jesus was indignant.

Cranky with the disciples.

They'd got it wrong.

He thought they mattered.

The little children were important to him.

We need to remember that in our church family.

Little children complicate things.

They're noisy & demanding & distracting.

We know that on Sunday nights.

And sometimes we can be tempted to think a bit like the disciples.....

it'd be so much easier without them....

And maybe that's right... maybe it would be easier.. but it wouldn't be better...

Jesus was indignant at that sort of attitude.

And we should be too.

We rejoice in our children... even when they're noisy & demanding & distracting.

**children are a model. (according to Jesus)**

The most important thing Jesus said...

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Children are a model of how someone enters the KoG.

Because children bring nothing but humble dependence.

They are helpless & they need to be helped in everything...

Food, toilet, health... everything....

And that's precisely how someone enters the KoG.

Not by doing enough good things to impress God.

Not by earning entry through religiousness.

But by putting aside our pride .... & coming to Jesus in

helplessness... recognising that because of our character....because of

what we carry deep in our hearts... we don't deserve to be in his

kingdom apart from his mercy...

and asking for his help...

seeking forgiveness for our mistakes...

through his saving death on our behalf.

According to Jesus.. children like Bb are a model to us...

of the only way anyone can enter the KoG.

And because of all of that

***(Jesus) took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.***

And tonight we especially seek the blessing, the good of Bb.

We're going to pray for him... and Dad & Mum are going to make

some solemn & serious promises to God before us...

and we're going to make a solemn & serious promise too.

**me to pray.**

## QUESTIONS...

Mum... looking back over Bb's little life what have you learnt big lessons have you learnt about life?

Dad... why does Jesus' place in Bb's matter so much to you?

Mum & Dad ... what do these promises mean to you?

## PROMISES

### 1. Who is your Lord & Saviour?

Jesus Dadt is my Lord & Saviour

### 2. Do you submit to his authority in all of life?

We do.

### 3. Do you declare that it is your great desire & prayer that Bb should grow up as a follower of Jesus Christ?

### 4. Do you promise with God's help to teach Bb, the Word of God, the Bible?

### 5. Do you promise with God's help to pray for Bb & with Bb & to set him a godly example in your lives?

### 6. As part of your godly example, do you promise to be committed to our church family here in Dubbo?

## PROMISE OF THE CHURCH FAMILY:

As the church family we too have a responsibility to help Bb submit to Jesus. And so I ask that as a church family we might stand and answer this question....

**Do you, the members of this church family, promise to receive Bb with Christian love & care, to pray for him, to seek his growth in the knowledge of Christ; and to never willingly set before him any conduct which might cause him to stumble or be unworthy of Christ?**

**Do you promise to pray for Dad & Mum, to encourage them & support them as the parents of Bb?**

## PRAYER: