

## First Sunday in Lent - March 6

*And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*

*Matthew 18:3-5 (NIV)*

Sometimes, I think I make following Jesus too complicated. Jesus asks us to trust and listen to God's words. Trusting God as an adult can be difficult at times because we think we know better. Children trust their parents to teach and help them though life. I need to trust God and listen to God's voice. I think God wants us to talk/pray with him everyday. For me what has helped me do this is reading devotionals as I am eating my breakfast. They are not long and I feel it starts my day focusing on God at least for a few minutes. Prayers do not need to be long or eloquently worded, just pray for people as you interact with them or they come to mind.

Working with children and children with special needs always encourages me. Children do not worry, they live in the moment and truly enjoy the beauty of their surroundings - a sunny day, a colorful leaf or a snowflake. Children encourage and help each other. They don't care about the color of your skin or how much money you have. They know we are all on the same team with God. Children like to be together playing, working, laughing and talking.

Children are always learning. I take advantage of the small groups in our church to read through the Bible or a book. I often gain new insight to a verse in the Bible that I have read before. Also, when children know better they do better. I realize I had many beliefs that were challenged about race and gender. Luckily, I have some wonderful young teachers who help me to see that everyone is a child of God. I am called to love others not judge others.

Children know that they are enough. That God creates each one of us with different talents and abilities to share with others.

Karen

**Prayer:** God, help us to learn that the kingdom of God is not earned by human effort, but received in a childlike trust as a gift of the mercy and grace of God. Be with us as we pray, encourage, trust and try to follow Jesus daily. Amen.