

Because

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

(Matthew 19:14)

Leader: Because they are children, not little adults,

People: We will treat them as children.

Leader: Because they are fully human,

People: We will treat them with respect and honor their agency.

Leader: Because they are little,

People: We will treat them tenderly.

Leader: Because they are growing,

People: We will give them space.

Leader: Because they are divinely created,

People: We will treasure them.

Leader: Because they are of the kingdom,

People: We will learn from them.

Leader: Because Jesus commanded us to,

People: We will welcome them just as they are.

Leader: Because they are beloved of a gracious God,

People: We will show them love and grace.

Leader: Because they belong not to us but to their Creator,

People: We will treat their lives as a sacred trust.

All: God make us patient, forgiving, and kind so all children might know the love that is divine. Amen.

Written by Cassandra Williams, national coordinator, Discipleship Ministries, ABHMS.



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