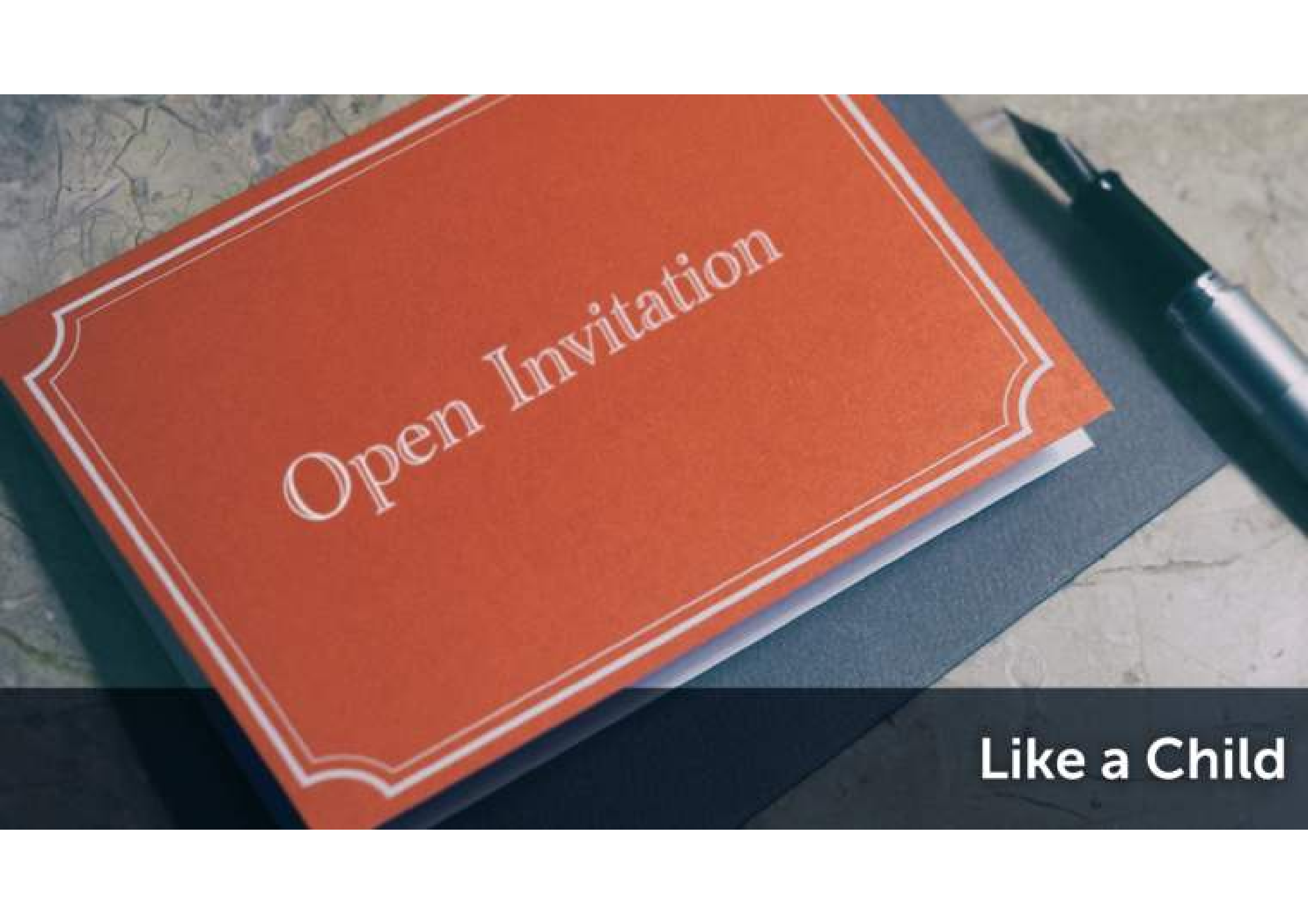




Open Invitation

Like a Child

¹⁵ People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

The entire perspective on children was VERY different in the 1st century world of Jesus—both within his circles of Judaism, and within the larger world of the Roman empire.



CHILDREN ARE A
HERITAGE
FROM THE LORD,
OFFSPRING A REWARD
FROM HIM.

LIKE ARROWS IN THE HANDS
OF A WARRIOR ARE CHILDREN
BORN IN ONE'S YOUTH.

BLESSED

IS THE MAN WHOSE
QUIVER IS FULL OF THEM.

PSALM 127:3-5

tollere liberum - "lifting up the child"



The disciples were trying to “filter” the kind of things that were important enough for Jesus to deal with.



Open Invitation



We need to be really careful about our level of certainty regarding what we think God isn't interested in being "bothered" with.

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"Christians who presume, as do the disciples here, to know the mission of their Master better than their Master himself, often end up opposing their Master."
(James Edwards)

“Let the little children come to me... and do not hinder them.”

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"The kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Open Invitation



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WILL NEVER ENTER IT."**

- LUKE 18:17



Open Invitation





Jesus works against our desires to “deserve” or “earn” things (big or small) by telling all of us that to “receive” the kingdom we only need to be as helpless and needy as a child that might still struggle holding up her own head.

“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

“Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like
a little child will never enter it.”

Jesus uses two different words to talk about those he's blessing, and therefore the posture of those who want to enter into/receive the Kingdom.

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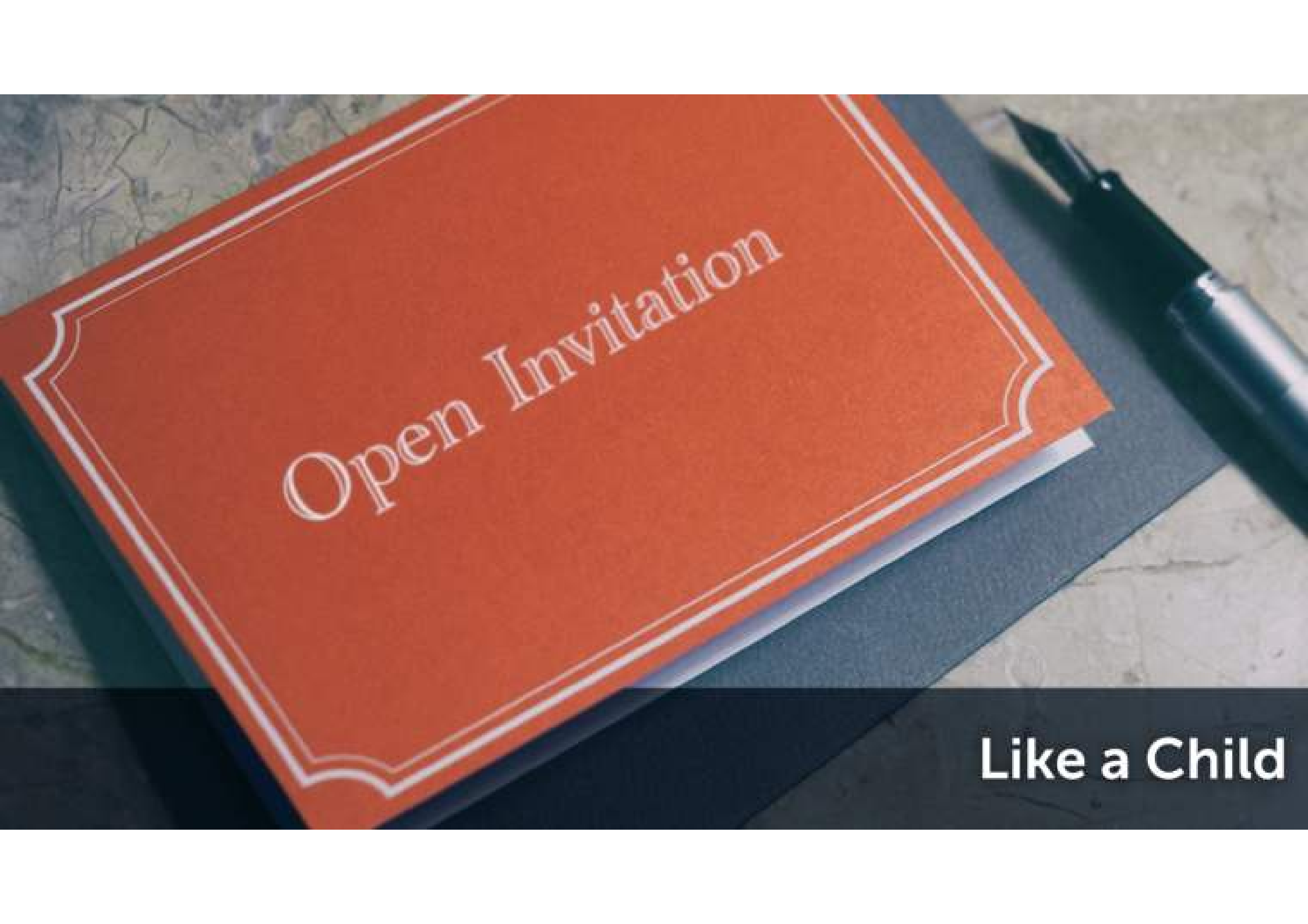
One is all about complete dependency and weakness.
One is about having the ability (and desire) to learn, and grow, and change, and mature.

Offer a prayer of gratitude today for children—your children, your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighborhood kids... our God welcomes them all with open arms.

Ask God to correct your understanding of anything that you (falsely) see as too unimportant for Him to care about.

Have you opened your heart to receive the gift of the Kingdom of God, bringing only your helplessness and need for divine mercy?

Invite the Spirit to continue to do the work in your soul that is necessary to train you in the ways of the Kingdom that we see in the life of Jesus.



Open Invitation

Like a Child