

Childlike Faith

Wow childlike faith! Have you ever felt like you have lost your innocence as a child? Jesus doesn't ever ask us to stray from being like a child when it comes to faith. "One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them" (Mark 10:13-16).

Sometimes the best way to have childlike faith is to watch them or better yet, to be around them. I love relating to Jesus like a child and I love his permission to have child like faith. Jesus has not only given me an unabandoned freedom to relate to him that way but really has been giving me opportunity to minister to children in three different ways in the last two months.

During our Final Four Legends weekend in New Orleans we were able to serve the coaches and the wives of NCAA basketball by doing daycare during one of Athletes in Actions breakfast services for the wives. The wives got to have amazing fellowship and hear great speakers while their kids get dropped off with us.

We (about five of us Fellas) walked into what we were about to turn into "Daddy Daycare" (even though none of us are dads). The ladies had set up some nice coloring tables and a movie of 'Finding Nemo' and we



thought to ourselves, "We need to make this a place of fun." We remembered that our events were

sponsored by Chick fillet and we had hundreds of these little mini beanie baby stuffed animals so, "Let's do something with them!" We turned that place



into the coolest circus you could ever think of... We had a shooting contest with trash cans, Clint and Phil were backboards behind the big trash cans which were our hoops, I was the loudmouth announcer getting everyone riled up and involved and Chris was our timer. It was like a free carnival for the kids! Later we gave the kids the opportunity to throw the cows at us like dodge ball and they loved it! In Keeping the theme of sharing child like faith, "And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming

me." (NLT Matthew 18:5)...I got to do two different soccer clinics locally in Ohio for home school kids and it was precious. We got to demonstrate the gospel through drills, games and little illustrations to help integrate faith with sport with about 45 different kids. God continues to remind me about childlike faith and how important it is not to cause a little one to stum-

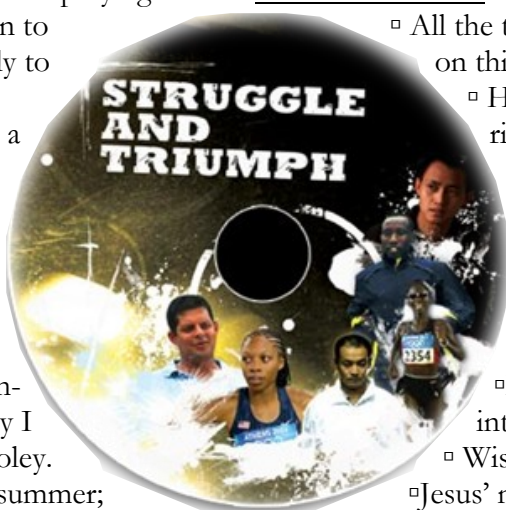
ble; Meaning to treat them delicately, to realize my position to speak into their lives and value each and every child whether I get one minute with them or coach them weekly. Also to share the good news of Jesus Christ with children because their hearts are precious and open to the Gospel in many ways. Especially from someone with influence in the sports world who they look up to that has a positive passionate attitude.

Finally, I have been occasionally doing instruction for a little league team that is part of our Xenia Scouts league with AIA. I love teaching these guys truth of baseball and see them get better. But really who cares about baseball when you compare this little game with eternity. Yet God has so ordained that we as coaches of a game can have such pull on a young persons life that we can be and share the saving power of Jesus with them. I am grateful for that privilege and will continue to capitalize on it as long as Jesus lets me.

I want to give you a bigger picture of what I'm involved in as I work mostly with baseball athletes and in Sportline training student leaders on college campuses. We have about forty different summer sports mission trips and projects going out this summer around the world, with over 800 athletes in the summer that get disciplined, integrating faith and sports. I've attached/inserted a document with the dates of the trips and locations so you can pray for them. Please be praying for those teams, "that words may be given to (them) in opening (their) mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19). I personally will be a coaching baseball and the Bible in Rochester, New York with one of our four Athletes in Action collegiate baseball teams! This is my favorite part of my job! I have some bonuses this year with me too: One, my close friend and fellow AIA staff Chris Rainwater. The second bonus is my buddy I played pro ball with and for, Mike Croley.

I am really excited about this summer; I think God is going to do some amazing things in the city of Rochester. We get to partner with local AIA staff, Mark Randall who has a lot of connections in the city. We're hoping to feed into his campus ministry at University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology and some other local college campuses as well as trying to be a blessing to the city of Rochester with different outreach projects.

And finally the Olympics are coming up in London and we have some major events going on to minister to Olympians who can reach their countries! Athletes in Action has a presence in over 85 different countries and what better time to reach a country with good news than to reach their top athletes and have them use their platform to declare the wonders of Jesus Christ. For the first time we are having a huge breakfast like we do for the Super Bowl, NBA All-Star game and the legends breakfast (Final Four Basketball) trying to reach the business community in London. The vision is to have a major Olympian at every table(40) to share their stories and use the platform of sports tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ. So if you know people in London who have connections please-please shoot me an email. Be praying for this incredible opportunity or watch our live streaming video of the struggle and triumph video that was translated in over 30 different languages. Let me know if you're interested if you need



some you can be sharing with your churches during the Olympics or with friends and fans to get them to watch the stories and you can walk with them in their faith journey. www.struggleandtriumph.com

I am thankful for...

- All the travels Jesus has allowed me to go on this year.
- Hearing hope for any and all marriages to be restored while I was at the annual Pure Life Ministries Alumni conference. www.purelifeministries.org
- An amazing birthday weekend in Denver!
- Online OT Prophets class at DTS
- My Sportline Guys I get to pour into.
- Wise counsel and friendships
- Jesus' new mercies every morning!

Halleluiah the lamb has loved me! Jesus you accept us as your children! Grant us childlike faith to trust you and to live life with the joy that you give children. Help us to welcome, love and preach the gospel to children. Would you grant new birth in countries all around the world spiritually that your children would increase and grow. Open our eyes to see what you are doing around the world and help us to work in the good works that you have prepared for us. In Jesus name.

-Taylor



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