

LOOKING UP

May-June 2024

*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*



Growing Up and Down

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

You can see it in the face of the little girl who wants so badly to help her mom in the kitchen. As her mom patiently allows her to do things like pour in milk and stir the batter, when it comes time to put the pan into a hot oven, mom says, "I have to do this part...you'll be able to when you're a little older." It's the same look on the small boy's face as he helps dad on a project. Hauling (small) boards and trying to pound in nails is what little boys are good at. But when it

comes time to cut some wood on the table saw, dad has him stand safely off to the side. "Tell you what, Buddy, I have to do this part myself. I'll teach you how to do it when you're just a little bigger." Both kids, so proud to be helping out, have a resigned look of, "I wish I was older now." And, "How long until I'm big enough?" All kids are in a hurry to grow up. They like to have things done for them to a certain point, but there is a desire and a drive to be self-sufficient.

Jesus' disciples, twelve grown, self-sufficient men, came to Him one day with a question. "Who is

Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

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the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (Matt. 18:1) I’m pretty sure they looked sideways at one another as Jesus proceeded to set a small boy before them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Surely He wasn’t serious! After all, as they looked at that boy, what would have stood out as glaringly obvious to them was not what the child could do, but what he couldn’t. They saw before them someone who was completely dependent on others around him. And that was the point...and that was the lesson. Jesus teaches us that, as good as it is to achieve independence and self-sufficiency, in the kingdom of heaven everyone must know that they rely completely on someone else. Namely Jesus.

One of Jesus' disciples, John, seems to have learned this lesson well, and later in his life would incorporate it seamlessly in teaching other Christians. In the letter that we call 1 John, he addresses his readers time and again, regardless of who they may be or what age they had obtained, as “little children.” It’s a not-so-subtle reminder that, even as we grow up, we are God’s little children who continually come to a more clear understanding that we rely on Jesus for our life, for our salvation, for everything.

Looking Ahead

May 26th

No Worship Service
(Memorial Day Camp Out)

June 30th

No Worship Service
(ALCA Conventions)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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