

Children are divine love made visible (Novalis)



PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, in tender love you have approached the children. I am gazing: What a wonder a child is! You laid something in my heart, too, so that I cannot but see a child and love it. I sense a longing to give everything to protect it against bursting disasters and bad experiences. Don't let this impulse ever leave my heart. And give new love towards children also to those who are about to let them alone or even to leave or betray them. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.



Mt 18:3-5

And he said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me."

122

Why do children need special protection?

Children have to be strengthened and defended in every way. "A child is God's greatest gift to the family, to the nation, to the world" (Mother Teresa). Children are the future of humanity. They are naturally in need of help. Moreover, they often grow up in atrocious conditions. In many parts of the world there is a lack of medical care, appropriate nutrition, elementary education, or even a place to live. Moreover, there are ongoing scandals such as trafficking in children, child labor, the phenomenon of "street children", the deployment of children in wars, the marriage of children, and the (sexual) abuse of children. There must be a decisive campaign on the national and international level against violations of the dignity of boys and girls that occur through sexual exploitation and all forms of violence and in favor of respect for the dignity and rights of every child.

1. Some talk about „making“ or „getting rid of“ a child. What does Mother Teresa mean when she says about children that they are „the greatest gift from God“?
2. Jean Ziegler once said: „The world economy could easily feed 12 billion people. That means a child who is starving today has been murdered.“ Why is the humanity of a society measured by the way it treats its children?
3. Why is sexual abuse of children and teenagers (especially if it happens within church) a conceivably grave mortal sin?
4. Is there a time when your parents can „dismiss you“ (=release you from their protection)? Can you dismiss your parents?

Get web information about where certain products are frequently or solely made by children.

Identify the products and boycott these products (= do not buy them).

Do you take on this challenge?

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DOCAT Study guide



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