

Weekly Meditation, June 3, 2009
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:1-5

What does Jesus mean when he invites us to become like a little child? What would that mean for church, if we took seriously this call?

It would mean giving up a few things: self-pretension, self-reliance, selfish ambition.

It would mean learning a few things: humility, vulnerability, trust.

The disciples were confused. They were trying to figure out their *rank* in God's kingdom while Jesus was trying to teach them a whole new way of thinking and being – one in which rank, ambition, and self-importance were meaningless. But these ways of seeing and acting in the world are hard-wired into us by all of our conditioning.

I love the phrase: *God is closer to us than our next breath.* What it says to me is that my spirit is as dependent on God as my body on breath. This is what it means to become like a little child...being dependent on Spirit for guidance in all we do.

Tonight is our last small group discernment gathering. Hope you can join us.

Prayer: *Spirit of life, help me to remember that being a child of God means you already love me and you want to guide me. Help me to listen today, and follow your nudges.*
Amen