



The Footscray Baptist Church celebrates the God-given diversity of cultures. We welcome you to join us in the journey of faith, whatever your race, religion, capability, gender or sexuality.

Bible Study - Mission in Matthew's Gospel - Chapters 16, 18 & 19

Matthew 16:24-27, 18:1-5, 19:13-15 (NRSV)

Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25** For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? **27** "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Matthew 18:1-5

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** He called a child, whom he put among them, **3** and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Matthew 19:13-15

13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; **14** but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." **15** And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Some questions to get us started

Jesus is quite clear about what it means to be a follower in these passages.

In what ways should we deny ourselves?

In 2020 what might the cross we have to bear be?

Saving and losing life – what is this life to which Jesus refers?

Some of the disciples were still concerned about who is most important in the kingdom. Jesus suggests that you need to be like a child to be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. What is it about a child that we can learn from when it comes to belonging in the kingdom of heaven? What attributes do they have that we could learn from?

Who else might 'children' represent?

Who should we be welcoming into our church community? How might we do that?