

As a Child

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” (Mark 10:15, NIV).

Last month, 30 children joined us for Vacation Bible School, and as is often the case, I learned as much as many of the children did.

When we share amazing stories with the children about God speaking creation into existence in 144 hours, they accept it at face value and don't need any further explanation. When they hear that Jonah was swallowed by a big fish, they don't have a problem with him heading off to Nineveh three days later, but many adults today say, "That's just a fable, not to be taken as history," yet Jesus took it as history and even compared Jonah's "burial" in the fish to His own in the grave.

Why does it matter?

Many say, "It doesn't matter whether you take the stories as history or not," but if Jonah wasn't "raised" from the fish's belly, then we have no reason to believe that Christ was raised from the grave, and if Christ isn't raised, our faith is futile. And if God didn't create the world with His Word as He said, there's no reason to think He recreated us by water and the Word in Holy Baptism.

But God really did create the universe in 144 hours, Jonah really did get swallowed by a large aquatic animal, and Jesus really rose from the grave. You don't have to understand. Just believe, and because Jesus died for you and made you a new creation through His Word, you will be raised, just like Jonah, just like Jesus.