

**I WONDER WHAT THE DISCIPLES EXPECTED JESUS** to say when they asked, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” Certainly, they did not expect Him to place a little child among them and reply that the child’s seemingly insignificant role was the greatest. But that is just like Jesus—flipping our expectations of what is important. He continued to explain that how we treat those who seem insignificant is how we treat Him. “And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.”

Where have you seen Jesus flip your expectations? I wanted to be a mom for as long as I could remember. So when infertility entered my story, I was heartbroken. This was not the plan I had expected. My husband and I began praying that God would grant us a child and He eventually answered those prayers through adoption. We had the incredible blessing of adopting three sons! We weren’t trying to do anything grand; we just wanted a family and this was where God led us.

When I discovered I was pregnant, we received comments that gave the impression this baby would somehow be “greater,” with a more special position in our family. Not so in God’s plan. Remember, He is constantly flipping the world’s expectations. We must be so careful about what our hearts elevate to greater importance. Whoever takes on the humble position of a child is greatest. And whoever welcomes one such child in His name welcomes Jesus.

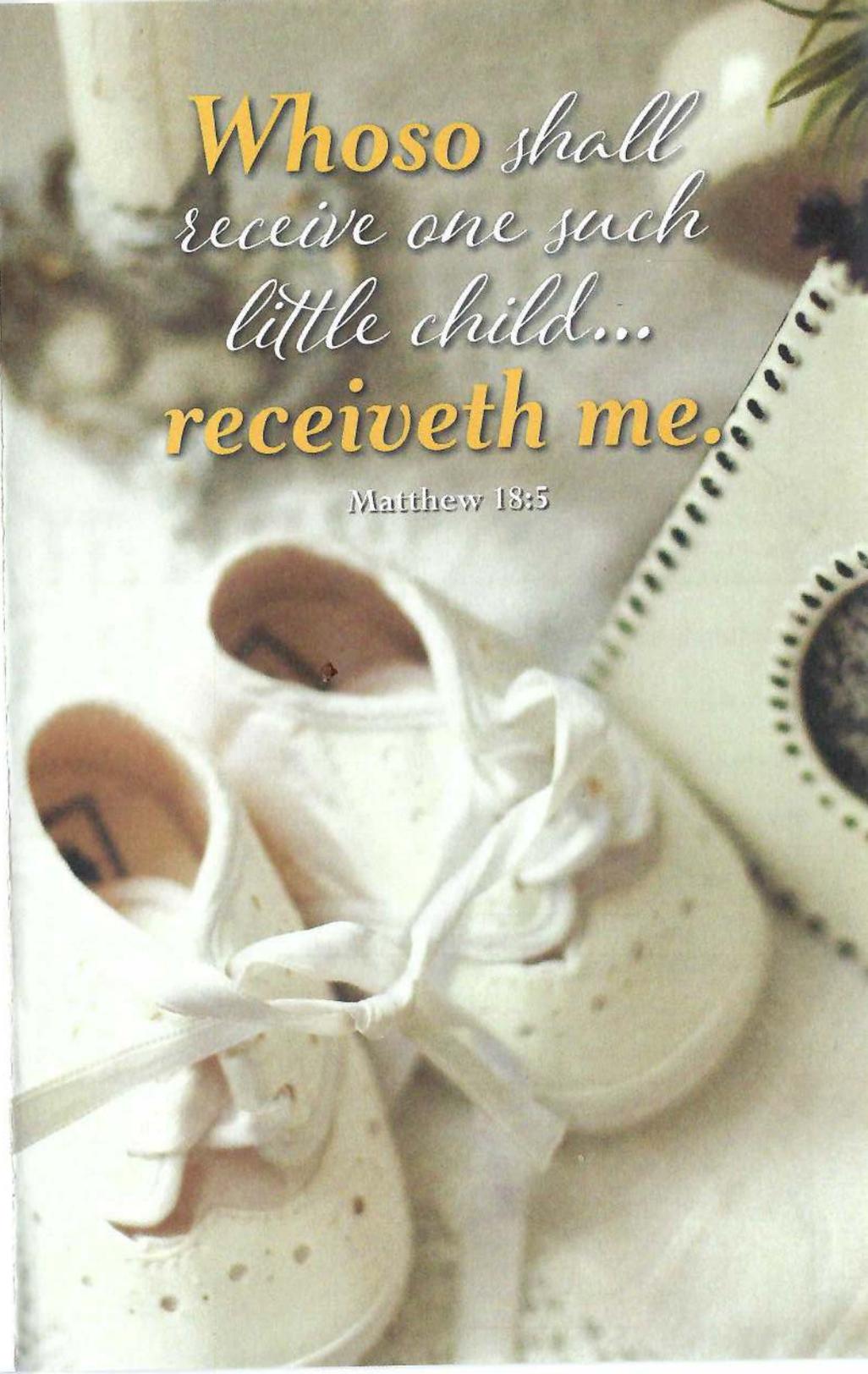
Where in your life have you placed too much importance, maybe believing you are really doing something great in God’s Kingdom? Does it match the seemingly humble, insignificant position that Jesus elevates? Perhaps your grand plans aren’t working out and you’re tempted to believe God has given you second best. Or it may feel like your small acts of service to your family don’t matter. Remember, anything done in love and worship of Jesus, no matter how insignificant it seems, is an offering to Him!

*Katie Carlson*

**Whoso** shall  
receive one such  
little child...  
**receiveth me.**

Matthew 18:5

Baby shoes and candle ©aprilante, courtesy Shutterstock • Printed in USA



# Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

January 23, 2022

## Call to Worship

*Sounds of Hope*

## Invocation

*Don Mauldin*

## Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #510 Heaven Came Down

## Welcome and Announcements

### Recognition of Guests

### Mission Moment

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Ron Marks*

## Worship in Song

Hymn #444 I Love to Tell the Story

Hymn #445 People Need the Lord

## Offertory Prayer

*Joe Morgan*

## Offertory

*Rose Morgan*

## Special Music

## Sermon: "Is Your Christian Booster Card Up to Date?"

Scripture: Mark 16:15

*Ron Marks*

## Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #419 The Family of God

# Covenant News

## *How to Stay Young*

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age and weight. Let the doctors worry about them. That's why you pay "them."
2. Keep only cheerful fries. The grouches pull you down.
3. Enjoy the simple things.
4. Laugh often, long and loud!
5. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it is family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
6. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, or even a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.
7. Tell the people you love that you love them at every opportunity.

## *Covenant Ministries*

This month has 5 Sundays so bring in items like paper products, laundry soap and toiletries for Pine Grove. Also collecting hygiene items for Newberry High School.

*Missions: Family Promise of Gainesville*

*Through the collaboration of local faith and civic groups, Family Promise of Gainesville provides families experiencing homelessness with compassionate care that includes case management, education, housing, meals and transportation until they can transition to a home of their own.*