



Believe

Part 3 – Like a Child

Pastor Ted Cunningham

We're going to continue in this series *Believe*. We're looking at Part 3 – *Like a Child*. We're going to talk today about what our faith looks like as we approach Jesus. We're also going to look clearly at maturity and the difference between our approach and maturity.

The Bible doesn't use the term *childlike faith* in so many words and a lot of people think, *I just have this simple faith; I want a childlike faith*, but sometimes we get the approach we are to take to Jesus confused and some may think, *Well I have a childish faith, just a simple faith*. We are going to look at the difference. We're not called to remain like children in the faith. We are going to look at two passage today. I encourage you to turn in Bibles to Hebrews 5. We are going to get there in just a second.

We've been taking themes out of this movie that's out right now called *Believe*. Last week, we looked at hardships and how people go through difficult times. In the movie, Matthew Peyton is a business owner. He loses his business. You'll see in the movie that he has lost his parents from years ago. He's losing his reputation; the whole town is against him. And he's lost his faith.

Little CJ comes into the picture. One of my favorite characters in the movie, CJ is reminding him what it's like to believe like a child. CJ is reminding him that he once had this belief in him; that he once had a strong faith. What happened?

It's what happens to many of us. We begin believing something as children. We're taught to believe. We follow the faith of our parents. We place faith in Jesus. We begin growing and we are excited about our faith in our young years. Then, as we get older, life hits us, experience hits us, hardship hits us and something happens to our faith.

What happens to us from childhood to adulthood? Have you lost enthusiasm for your faith? Do you find it waning at times? Do you find yourself thinking that maybe you're going through a dry season? "Why don't I have what I used to have?" "Why do I not experience the joy that know I once did?"

Let me give you an example. So, the difference between childhood and adulthood. I love the pictures that are posted around August and September of kindergarteners going to school for the first time. There's that excitement and they are in their backpacks and they just can't wait to get to school. They can't wait to learn, they can't wait to see everything the teacher is going to give them.

They've got new pencils and new boxes to put them in and everything is new. This is what a kindergartener looks like at school (picture of kindergarteners with eager, smiling faces). Would you agree with me that something changes? Do we have any teachers of junior high and senior high in the house today? Is it different? Do you get the smiles every day when you're.... Do we have any professors? Do your students come in everyday with big smiles and all excited to learn? No, they look like this (picture of college students that look uninterested and bored). And you're wondering what happened. I love those pictures because I think... This is what I love when I'm around someone who is brand new in the faith, brand new Christians, when they are learning and they are eager and they are excited and it's all brand new to them. Then you get around someone who has lost that eager, humble, teachable, ready to learn, excited attitude. What happened to it? For us, I want to find ways to get back in touch with that.

Let me tell you about a game. I know some of you played this growing up, but for the last few weeks, I've wanted to throw the tablets and the iPhones out the car window. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? I told my kids to put them aside so I could teach them a game. It's a complicated game. It's going to take a while to learn, but once you learn it, this will keep you occupied for years. You'll remember this. It's called The License Plate Game. Does anybody remember The License Plate Game? As children, we occupied ourselves for hours with this. Go online, google search license plate game. Hundreds, if not thousands of pdfs are going to pop up, looking just like this. Print them out, put them on clip boards, take your devices and, as you go over the Taney Commo bridge, toss them into the lake and hand your kids the clipboards.

I gave this to Corynn and Carson, 11 and 13. I had to make it exciting, so the first one to get all 50 gets five bucks. You have to make it a little challenging. If you think that's a little steep, make it a buck. For some of you, if you're grandma and grandpa, get a twenty out. You've got a little cash and you're 401k is doing well because of the Trump bump. Anyway... We're not talking about... NO!

Can I just say this, parenthetically? Because sometimes I share thoughts that just come to me. I was with a guy last night that told me his pastor is not allowed to use the words democrat or republican in the message. I'm thinking that would really screw our church over terribly. We'd be screwed up for...

Anyway, I got this out and gave it to the kids. Can I tell you that we have come alive with The License Plate Game? There is not a better city in the country to play this game than Branson, Missouri. I played it in Naperville, Illinois growing up, which was the most boring game on the planet, but now I have an 11-year-old going "Can we go through the Bass Pro Shop parking lot on the way home?!" You can get 30 to 40 of them in an hour in Branson, Missouri. And we're driving through the Bass Pro parking lot and to hear with excitement... Think about this. We're off of the little YouTube devices and our kids are screaming out from the backseat, "MONTANA!!"

It's that excitement and enthusiasm from a license plate game. If you want to find Montana or Wyoming, you go look for the F350 King Ranches. The Suburbans or Yukons are Texas and Oklahoma. Then the beaters are Missouri. If you see a crumpled-up license plate, that's probably Missouri. We're almost done. We need Hawaii and Alaska. This is what's making it even more fun. With my glasses, the

new bifocal thing I've got going on, I am riding right on people's bumpers to try to figure out what it is. So, if I'm on your bumper, I'm not mad; I'm playing a game and we're having fun.

We have a lot of fun here at Woodland Hills. Sometimes people think that's a problem; there's too much of that going on over here. It doesn't even feel like church. But, we want you to know we don't lose the enthusiasm.

When we talk about believing like a child... Today, we are talking about our approach, that enthusiasm, that eagerness that you saw in the picture of the kindergarteners. We don't want the faith where we're sitting there thinking it's boring. Let me give you another example. It comes from a great Christmas classic (picture of Buddy from Elf riding the escalator). Let me ask you. Do you take riding an escalator for granted? Yeah! We get on them now and we're going up stairs without moving our legs, people. There are some things in life that we've come to take for granted when we need to be reminded that we are actually going up the stairs without moving or we are actually sitting in a chair 30,000 feet in the air. You've seen kids on a first flight. They are so excited. Then you meet an older person and they hate flying.

Going back to the Elf movie, I love when Buddy decides he's going to become a little bit more adult, but he's got the childlike quality. This is when he confronts the little angry elf. "He's an angry little elf." I love that scene. But, one of my favorite scenes that shows you that playful, learning, and yet... We are going to talk about this. ...that can become naïve in young people. That's why they fall for fantasies and fairytales.

It's when he sees that sign and realizes he's with someone who has the world's best cup of coffee. He sees the sign on the outside of this place in New York and he busts in the door and he's so excited for them. He's like, "Congratulations! You are known for the world's best cup of coffee." And all the people sitting in there are looking at him like he's crazy. I think we need to start doing this when we go into Branson shows. They all advertise being the number one show on the strip. You need to walk into them and be like, "Congratulations! Wow, good for you; you won! I'm excited for you!" That's what I love about Buddy's childlike approach.

This week, I asked you to share with me some funny but profound things your kids have shared. You gave me a lot of great ones. What I love about this church is that you posted 60 or 70 on the Facebook wall, but what was funny were all the messages I got that I cannot share with you. I love this church. "Here's one you'll love, Ted, but this is not for anybody to know about."

Lindsey said, "My son was about four and learning about giving compliments. We went into the store and he told the cashier that she had nice bags."

You're going to notice that almost all of these deal with four year olds; not three year olds, not five year olds, but four year olds.

Janelle said, "One day on the farm, while Bruce was syphoning gas from one dual tank to the other, our oldest son, seven at the time, was watching intently. When the gas reached Bruce's mouth and he spit it out, our son looked in disbelief and said, 'Whoa, when I get married, I'm going to have my wife do that.'"

That's good.

Whitney said, "My four-year-old was constipated, sitting on the toilet when he yelled out from the bathroom, 'Mom, I need Oxy Clean. It helps get the tough stuff out.'"

That just tells you our kids see everything, hear everything, forget nothing, and then they repeat. They don't always apply it right, but they get it.

Nan was watching the first service from home. She said, "One day we were in the car and Bennett, my two-year-old, saw a plastic pumpkin bucket, the kind you use for candy, lying in someone's yard and he screamed out from the backseat, 'What the Halloween bucket is that doing there?'"

Sharla said, "My son revealed my shopping addiction to me when he was four. As we were driving down the road, I expressed to him that I was feeling discontent. I wasn't sad or angry; I just wasn't happy. He looked over at me and responded with, 'Mom, do you want to go to Walmart?'"

Kim said, "We were driving down the road in our nice new-to-us car. I kept harping to everyone in the family about how they couldn't eat anything in this new car. They couldn't even drink in the car. After one such lecture, Carter looked at me and said, 'Mom, you better be careful or you'll start loving this car more than us.'"

The senior adults have no problem with that.

Grandma is telling about her daughter. "My daughter is a type 1 diabetic and was diagnosed at 10 years old. It's just normal for her children to see their mommy dealing with low blood sugars. That being said, I got this from my daughter this week." Her daughter said, "You know your three-year-old has heard you use your diabetes to your advantage a few too many times when she come out of her bedroom with chocolate all over her face and an empty wrapper. When you ask her what she thought she was doing, she says, 'Oops, sorry, Mom, my blood sugar was low.'"

This is another one of Carter from Kim. She said, "We moved to Branson when we were four and then moved away when my son went into sixth grade. That December, we were driving down the road through Topeka, Kansas. We heard the song, It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year, on the radio. My son Carter got all excited and said, 'Wow, that Andy Williams is really getting popular!'"

Don't you love a kid who thought Branson made Andy Williams popular.

Whenever we talk about kids... Whenever we talk about that childlike quality of eagerness, excitement, wanting to learn... I'm just going to ask you again. What happened to take that away. When did you lose that?

Today, we are going to look at two passages of scripture, each will use children as a word picture, but we're going to be looking at approach and maturity. And we are going to correlate these two text. Before we get to Hebrews 5, I want to take you to the gospels where Jesus is going to address this idea of who is greatest in the kingdom. So, he's going to use a child to answer the question that the disciples give him.

Matthew 18 - **1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"** So, Jesus is going to use a child as a prop.

2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The idea here is posture. The idea here is humility. The idea here is teachability. It's the approach to Christ. If you'll notice, in children's church today, children are learning in WildWoods and Critter Street and Crew. They are learning, they are excited, they are coloring, they are making crafts, they are doing all sorts of projects to reinforce the lesson of the morning. They are excited to learn and they are growing.

But, there's something about adults. When you get around adults, we tend to be more cynical, more skeptical, more "Prove it, I'm not going to buy it until I see it lived out for a while." Jesus is saying the way in the kingdom, the way you move forward is by descending into greatness. The way up is down. Jesus is saying, "Listen, you come to me..." I know you've got questions. I know you may be in here wanting to talk...

This my son. He's studying apologetics. Apologetics is taking systems of theology and giving good answers to people. My son freaks out when people start talking about the earth being billions of years old. He's watched enough Louie Giglio and Liberty University stuff on line that he goes at them with a younger theory. He's passionate about it. I said, "Carson, I love your enthusiasm because sometimes when we become adults, we get kind of hard hearted towards this stuff." And Jesus says, "If the way you come to me is like this child..." The kingdom is about descending into greatness.

4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. Jesus adds onto this lesson the idea of valuing children. In that day in Greco Roman culture, it was all about devaluing children. Children and childhood were actually seen as an insignificant season of life. Even little girls were valued less than little boys. And Jesus is now making a great statement about the value of kids. It's why we, as a church, invest so much in meeting the physical needs of students in Stone and Taney Counties through Care for Kids. We had that message back in August. Our desire is to value children here. We, as adults, need to be reminded to approach Jesus with this eager, humble, teachable posture.

I honestly believe this is one reason why you should serve in Critter Street and WildWoods. You're like, "No, I did my time." Don't you get that sometimes from people. "I'm tired. I need new hips. I don't have time to do that." I heard one guy say this week, "We don't need any more hipsters leading; we need more people who need new hips leading." Just process that for a second. Yeah, we are great with hipsters, but we need those of you with worn out hips getting involved. Do you know why? It's because getting around a child will help remind you of those childlike qualities that teach us about our approach.

We grow spiritually through humility and teachability. We are not to remain like children, but we are to approach Jesus like a child.

In Mark 10, we read this. People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. Why? Again, the culture said children were not valuable.

14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant (very angry). He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Jesus is giving us this lesson. He's saying, "Don't think about coming to me with your attitude, with your skeptical, cynical, closed, hard heart. It doesn't work that way. You approach me like a child, eager and humble and teachable."

In 1 Corinthians 13, we read this. So, we understand that we approach Jesus like a child, but we should be maturing in the faith. Just like we mature in life and we grow in our bodies and in our wisdom and in our knowledge. ***11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.*** I love this idea because if I go into a store with Amy and I want something and she says no, I'm a 42-year-old man; I say okay and move on. But if she says no and I respond with a "But I want it!" that's a child. That is not the language or communication of an adult.

Do you know what I heard this week? I was pretty excited about this. A superintendent shared this story with me. I think it's okay to share it. Give me a moment. Yeah, I think it is. He said, "A lot of times, we deal with parents today. They come in to work with us and a student. It's very challenging because a lot of times, we're talking to children about their children." I want you to process that for just a second. He says, "We're dealing with young adults who never moved out of the childhood phase." You know my passion is eradicating prolonged adolescence in the church and in the family today. It's destroying families. He said, "It's difficult for us trying to reason with parents sometimes because they are approaching us like children, not adults."

He said, "We had a couple that came in a few weeks ago. It was a young couple. We were just shocked by the way this couple responded to us. It was one of those moments..."

We all grew up with parents that when we got dropped off at school, it was given with a certificate for permission to spank. Does anybody know what I'm talking about. We got spanked and then got spanked again at home. My parents gave permission to spank me to every person I came in contact with. "If Ted gets out of line, just knock him around a little bit. Then tell us and we'll do the same when we get home." That's how most of us grew up. When you got in trouble at school, you fretted. Why? Because it was your fault. You know this. We're talking about this all over the country right now. It's not the same anymore. Now, it's the teacher's fault, not the parent's fault.

But he said this couple was different. They took personal responsibility for their child and said they were going to talk to him and make sure he understands how to respect authority. We were in a meeting this week and he said, "Ted, I just want to tell you that couple goes to Woodland Hills and there is an older couple at your church that has been mentoring them. It's changed their family. It's been so refreshing and we're trying to figure out how that gets spread around."

This is why it's important for you to plug in. Do you understand our whole community is at stake over this? We want to be growing and learning. ***When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.*** I don't talk like a child anymore. I don't reason like a child anymore. But the problem is, as I become a man, Jesus is reminding us today that I'm still to approach Jesus like a child. That's why this message is being given today, the week before Christmas. That's because Christmas brings the child out in all of us. Jesus should bring the child out in you every day of the year as far as how you approach him.

Approaching Jesus like a child (eager, humble, teachable) does not mean we pursue spiritual immaturity.

So, your like, "I came to faith. When I'm at home group, they want to bring up these big ideas. They want to talk about end times. And ever since the election, we're talking about end times all the time. And I don't want to get into all of that." Let me tell you, approaching Jesus like a child doesn't mean you grow stagnant in your faith. Approaching Jesus like a child is your posture, but you should be eager to learn and eager to grow.

This is one of the reasons why, when I go to hear my friends speak, I love to sit on the front row with a notebook. I tell them right before the message, "I'm going to drain you today. I'm going to take a note on everything, I'm going to tweet it, I'm just going to suck you dry with what you've got." I'll speak at college campuses sometimes and I get the falling asleep crowd. You want to say, "Your posture towards learning is your decision. You can't grow stagnant in your faith."

Some of you are like "Why does it feel like my prayers never get past the ceiling? Why when I open my Bible to do a quiet time I feel like Oh, I've read that; I knew that?" It's your approach. Approaching your prayer time, approaching your quiet time, approaching an unbeliever, approaching a fellow believer... It's all in your approach. Are you eager and humble and teachable?

Now we are going to move over to Hebrews 5. ***11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand.*** For some of us, it's not even just the approach, but not learning and not growing in our faith is because we've stopped trying. We feel it's enough. Let's tie last week into this week. For some of us, what takes us back to the Word, what takes us back to our prayer time is hardship. We go through something difficult, we go through a challenge, we go through a trial and it drives us back.

Yesterday, we had the funeral for Tom's mom. I hope he doesn't mind me sharing this story. His mom passed away at age 85. He shared a story. He said, "My mom and my aunt were in the car and there was a lady in the backseat. They were all hopped up on meds. There were a lot of meds and my aunt fell asleep. Pretty soon my mom fell asleep while driving. I got a call from the police. I asked my mom what happened."

He found out she fell asleep and then he told us that if you take that short cut through the Yakov parking lot, you're going to notice that the berm at the end of each parking row has a beautiful tree and they are all the same size except one berm that is completely missing a tree. That was the one she took out. We all laughed and now I can't wait to go by Yakov today and find out where the missing tree is.

But the whole day, I'm thinking about yesterday. That's because when you go through those times, when you go to a funeral, the whole purpose is to learn. Taking to heart the death of someone, losing someone, going through loss gets you asking all of the right questions. But some of us, if we grow stagnant in our faith, it's because we just stopped trying to understand.

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers... The idea here behind teachers is not formal learning or formal teaching. The idea here is you and me passing on what we've learned. This is mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, believer to believer, believer to non-believer. When you read something, when you learn something, when God teaches you something, you should have just as much enthusiasm and eagerness to learn as you do to share. Something that's caught is quickly taught. Something that you learn and grow in, you're excited and can't wait to share it.

This is my 11-year-old as he is learning stuff, he wants to share with me in vivid detail everything he's learning. Parents, you know what I'm talking about. There are times your like, "Hey I've already been to school. That's really more of a personal thing for you." But he's so excited. He wants someone else to hear what he just learned. This is part of growing in your faith. When you're learning, when you're growing, you should be sharing. When it's evangelism, you should be sharing what you're learning with an unbeliever. That's fellowship, that's discipleship, that's ministry – sharing what you're learning.

The writer here is saying you ought to be teachers. You've been in the faith long enough. You should be passing this on to everybody you come in contact with. You should have another person in your life like the older couple in this church that have taken on the younger couple and now they are processing everything in the schools in a completely different way. You should be passing this on. Your faith was not meant to stay inside of you. That's why if you ever hear a politician say "My faith is more of a personal thing," that's not how that works. You should be teachers at this time. You should be so enthusiastic to pass on what you learned.

...you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Now watch this. We are going to go into another word picture of a child, but this time, it's not about the approach; it's about maturity. ***13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant...*** So, this moves away from the word picture that Jesus was using. ***...is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.***

Hebrews 6 - ***1 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity...*** Your translation may read ***press on to maturity***. Our church is built on essential beliefs: what we believe about God, what we believe about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, three persons in one. We call that the Trinity. What we believe about the Bible, what we believe about man, what we believe about the church, these are essential truths. New believers should be grounded in these essential truths. But, we should press on from that, understanding that there is much built off of those essential truths.

Some of you only want the essential truths. "I don't need any more than this right here." No, you need this and then you need to build off of this. And as you learn and as you grow, you're passing it on to

others. *...not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God...* In other words, and here's the big idea for the whole morning:

Spiritual maturity pursues works, duty, and responsibility without abandoning curiosity, fascination, and wonder. The first half of that sentence is the adult and the second half is the child. The second half is our approach and the first half is now what we do in pursuing spiritual maturity. The mistake we make as adults is we take duty and responsibility and we use those to trump curiosity and fascination.

What's true about your faith is also true in relationships. Remember when you were first dating. Some of you are dating. Do you know what dating is? Dating is simply three things: curiosity, fascination, and wonder. You sit across the table from someone and you are just enamored with them. You're on the phone for hours because you're curious. "No, you hang up first." "No, you hang up first." You're consumed, your drunk on curiosity, fascination, and wonder. You're consumed with one another and with learning about one another. You're eager, you're excited, you're teachable. You want to find out more.

Then you get married and you have jobs and you have children and you have diapers and you have bills and you have dishes and you have lawns and you have in-laws. You have all this going on. Do you know what that is? That's duty and responsibility. Do you want a great marriage? Do you want a great relationship? Do all of it. Don't forsake curiosity, fascination, and wonder for works, duty, and responsibility. Don't abandon curiosity, fascination, and wonder for works, duty, and responsibility. Pursue both. Are you still learning about the other people in your most important relationships? Are you asking great questions? Are you digging in deep?

I made my wife come to both services today. I said, "And spread out." Here's what's great. We are going through different seasons in life. We are entering the teenage phase. We're becoming different people. The teenagers aren't becoming different people, we're the psychotic ones. We're the ones trying to wrap our brains around the whole thing. But I live in curiosity with my wife with every new season. "Help me figure out what you're thinking and why you're thinking it." And then I'm fascinated when I get the answer.

Like right now for example. She hates cold. She despises it; I can't believe she's here this morning. Now, when we're in a store at The Landing, she won't leave the store until we have a plan for where we're going and what the next store is. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? One of her love languages is spontaneity. "I need a plan. I'm not walking out this door until I know what other door I'm going into." I'm just standing there going, "Wow. I say we live on the wild side here. We walk out this door with no plan. We don't know whether we are going to the left or to the right."

If you're stuck in duty, responsibility, and the work of a relationship, you could say, "You're crazy. Come on; we'll figure it out as we go." And this is what you see at The Landing – people at each other's throats. You see it at Silver Dollar City. It's bad! The key is both.

We were at Silver Dollar City Sunday night. I had Carson, Mason, and Cooper. The age range was 10 – 12. They were three great kids having a ball. Let me just remind you. We were at Silver Dollar City. If

you are unfamiliar with it, it's a theme park. That's very important for the detail of this story. Three senior adults looked at these boys during that night. Three senior adults throughout the night at different times looked at them and said, "Settle down, boys." I was there and Chad Phillips was there, the dads. They weren't running and they weren't jumping in front of wheelchairs or walkers. They weren't doing anything reckless or dangerous. You know what there were being. They were being boys. Which we don't like anymore.

One of the times they were told to settle down was at the ball pit at the Fireman's place down there, where you shoot each other with foam balls. Chad and I got to laughing about this. This is all of us old people. We look at young people and tell them to knock it off. I told Chad that if one more person tells these boys, my wrath will be unleashed. He asked what I would say.

I said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to say. 'Hey, Grandma, I want you to look around. Do you see we have about five million twinkling lights going on around this place? We've got rides that go up and down and around and around. We've got hot chocolate and funnel cakes pumped into these kids. What part of this park screams settle down? Everything about this place is get wound up.' Isn't that true. What is the problem? It's because we've got to get serious. We've got stuff to do.

Jesus said this to the church at Ephesus. "Man, you're doing a lot of great things." This is in Revelation. "You're doing so many great things. I appreciate how serious you're taking your faith and all you're getting done. Here's the problem though. You forgot your first love. You forgot the first time we met. You forgot the excitement and the enthusiasm that you had when you met me. You're doing stuff in my name. You're doing good stuff, but you forgot me." That's a problem.

The application here today is simple. I'm looking at a lot of adults in here and I just... Here's the application: Get wound up! This was hard in the 9:00 service with 50 people; it was tough. Anyway... We plowed on. But if I can encourage you. This is Christmastime, going into New Year's 2017. You're saying, "Ted, my faith is stagnant. Ted, my time alone with the Lord is stagnant. I read the Bible. I've read it before. I pray. It is the same prayer: 'Dear Jesus, thank you for this food. In your name, amen.'" It's time to get wound up. It's time for you to go back to curiosity, fascination, and wonder. It's time for you to start asking questions. "Why is my faith where it is today?" "What caused me to stop believing?"

I love the illustration of presents. I love watching adults opening presents, trying to save the wrapping and the bow. I thought about it this week as I saw it under the tree. That's not how my 11-year-old would open this gift. We're at that point. The sooner you can get gifts wrapped and under the tree... Kids, I'm talking about the ones that are not from Santa. It's just to torture kids. They just want to open them because they are excited about what's in them.

Some of us have lost that. We just need to admit that. We've lost the excitement that we have in the gift of Jesus Christ. I want to invite one senior adult to come up here to unwrap this like my 11-year-old would unwrap it. Martha, come up here and open this and you're going to stay up here for the second act. Come on up here, Martha. Matt, go ahead and get it ready. There's nothing in here, but you are going to demonstrate what it is to open a gift like a child.

Can I say something? Martha... I can't give your testimony. It's on video; it's being edited. Do you mind me sharing a little bit of your story? Martha escaped Cuba when she was 10 years old. Her grandpa was the Attorney General of Cuba when Castro took over. She has an incredible testimony. That's why I love picking on her because she's fiery. She's the one that when I lose my place up here and I ask where I was, she gives me not where I was, but where she wants me to go. I'm not saying she's my favorite member, but... Merry Christmas. Open that like a child would open it, Martha.