

# i m p o v e r i s h e d

**Craig Rees**

The Children (Matthew 18:1-5)

03/19/2017

*NOTE: There are more questions below than you are expected to answer. Please just choose a few that are relevant for your personal reflection & application.*

1. What was your major takeaway from the message this morning?
2. (Scale 1-10) "The Rice and Beans fast has been easy for me." Rank yourself on this scale. Share with the group one area in which you came face to face with your own impoverished state.
3. "The meaning of a passage is driven not simply by the meaning of a word but the state of the world, the history, and the geographical location. How did the background Pastor Craig provided to this text help you understand God's attitude to children? How does it help you understand Jesus' answer to the disciples' question in Matthew 18:1?
4. In the Grecian and Roman worlds of Jesus' day, children were treated as a disposable commodity. Infanticide (exposure) was practiced due to economic conditions, the physical conditions of the child, unconventional relationships, inconvenience, religious superstition and labor needs. Which of these, in your opinion, are the most common drivers of neglect of children in Michigan today? What can be done about it?
5. If James 1:27 says that pure religion is opening the door to widows and orphans, is every Christian required to do so?
6. "Every healthy parent has a God-given primal urge to care for their children. We have a far lesser urge to care about children that are not our own." If someone in your group has ever fostered or adopted, ask them to share how God helped them deal with this.
7. Read Ephesians 1:4-5 noting what the Ephesian church would 'see' as Paul wrote. How does our adoption as sons and daughters of God provide the basis for any Christian response to the orphan?