

Do You Trust Me?

Children's Talk by Pastor Don Ginkel

This morning we are going to talk about faith or trust. David, I am going to ask you to come over by this chair and stand on it. The first question I want to ask you is, "Do you trust me?" He will say, "Yes." Since you trust me, I'm going to put a blindfold on you in just a moment. Then I want you to fall forward, and I am going to catch you. But if I miss and don't catch you, you are going to be "ketchup" on the floor. Do you understand what we are going to do? "Yes." I'm going to stand back here, and I am going to tell you to jump and, if you trust me, I will catch you. You won't get hurt. If I don't catch you, what is going to happen to you? You are going to fall face down on the floor and get hurt pretty bad – aren't you? That's okay? "Yes."

Now stand right on the edge of the chair. Get your feet together. We are going to blindfold you in just a second. I am going to stand back about 20 feet. Have someone put a blindfold on David. I ask if he can see, and he says, "No." Now, David, do you think I can catch you 20 feet away from you? "No." Why? "I can't jump that far." How about 10 feet?" "No." How about 4 feet? "No." I am going to stand just 2 feet away from you.

I want all of you to listen carefully. Now, David, if you have faith and trust that I will catch you, I want you to fall forward, and I'll catch you. David falls, and I catch him. Let's give David a hand of applause.

Now let's learn something from this. I'm going to say a few words of John 3:16 at a time and then I want you to say them: **"For God so loved the world... that He gave... His one and only Son... that whoever believes in Him... shall not perish... but have eternal life."**

I want David to stand on this chair again. I had David stand on this chair to show that David is like all of us. We are not standing on chairs, but we are standing here on earth. I put this blindfold on him to show how we are blind because of our sin. We can't see. I represented Jesus, and I said, "Could I step back 20 feet and catch you?" What did David say? "No." What was David scared would happen? That I would not catch him, and he would end up "ketchup."

This morning you are here on earth. This morning Jesus is physically in heaven. Would you say that He is farther away than 20 feet? "Yes." Heaven is a long way away. But Jesus is holding out His arms to us and He says, "Come and jump into My arms, and I will catch you." John 3:16 tells us that God in heaven loves you so much that while you were on earth and blinded by your sin and you couldn't see, He sent Jesus down to suffer and die for all your sins on the cross.

Today Jesus is inviting you to jump into His open arms. Now you need to say to Jesus, "I am coming to You with my sins and my blindness, and I believe you can save me, not from this floor, but save me from hell.

Do you trust that Jesus can save you from hell? Can I hear your answer? "Yes!" David can't do this for you. You Moms and Dads can't do this for you. I can't do this for you. Do you trust Jesus today? Do you

believe John 3:16 when it says that when you believe in Jesus you will not perish, but will have everlasting life? Can I hear your answer? “Yes!”

Let’s pray. I’ll say a few words at a time, then you say them, too. Dear Jesus... this morning I’m standing... not on a chair... but here on earth... and You are in heaven... I believe that You... suffered and died... for all my sins... I fall into Your arms... and I believe you will catch me... Help me believe in You today... tomorrow... and every day... until you come... to take me Home... to be with You forever... Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Note: As the children come forward for this talk, have someone place a folding chair in front of the children and slightly to one side. Pick out a young boy that you think might understand the instructions. If, half way through the talk, he can’t jump—pick another child. Be enthusiastic in your presentation.

