



*Eyes Wide Open*, an image that I think about when I read Matthew 18: 1-7. Children begin their journey in the world with a sense of wonderment, looking about to see all they can to learn and absorb everything around them. At their first encounter, there is no preconceived notion or judgement. Children are humble, inquisitive, happy. The “greatest” in God’s Kingdom is the person who lives with childlike humility.

*Eyes Wide Open*, as a participant in one of the Bible studies this past year, we talked about the wonderment in the eyes of a child. I thought about how we are tolerant, forgiving, supportive of a child as they learn. As adults, we smile, we encourage, we figure out how to help the child learn and grow. We do not expect a child to be perfect. Mistakes are “learning experiences”. We comfort, hug, smile, encourage.

*Eyes Wide Open*. I remind myself we are all “children in the eyes of God”. As I look around my community, I now try to see with the wonderment of a child. My perspective on the homeless has changed; I look upon them as a child loved by God-not with judgement and preconceived notions. Instead, how do I help support, encourage, and care?

*Eyes Wide Open.* The second part of this passage refers to temptation in our world, and not despising those who succumb to it. Do not cast them out, do not judge. Instead, forgive. That is being Christian, that is following the path of Jesus. I stumble, I fall; I keep the mental picture of a child's eyes in my head; I get up and keep trying.

Prayer: God, please be with us as we journey through this Advent season. Help us to see our world with *Eyes Wide Open*, looking at our community through the eyes of a child. May we find ways to help those in need. Work through us to be your helping hand. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.