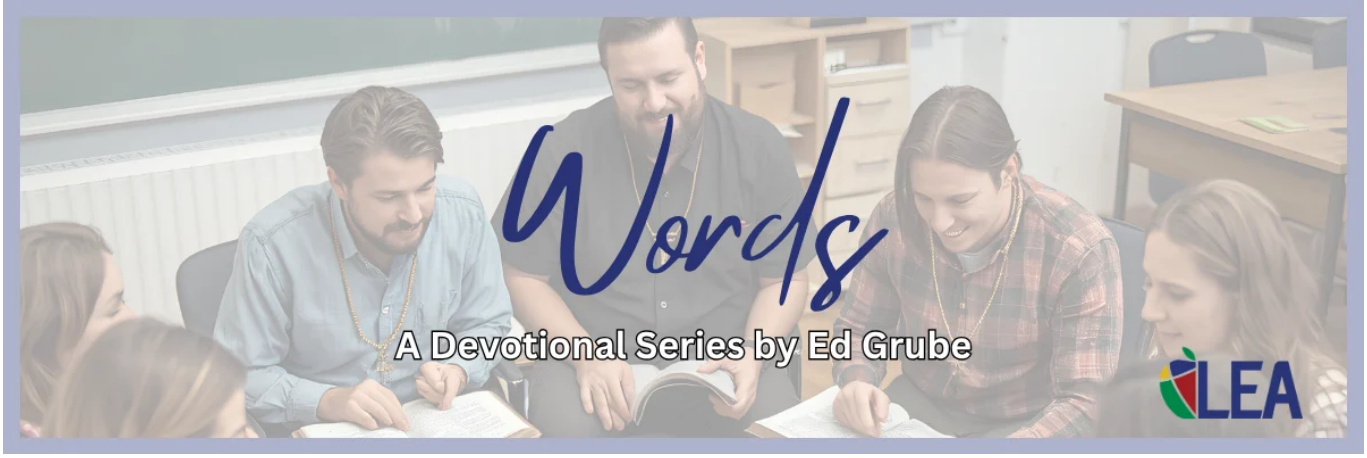


LEA Weekly Devotion
Words series 2026–2027

Week of November 15, 2026

Little People

> *But Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 19:14 KJV).

It must have been a rough experience for some of those early disciples who wanted better reception, participation, and behavior. It caused Jesus to choose the word *suffer* when telling the teachers what to do about it. Trembling teachers would be wise to consider the implications suggested for their daily dose of teaching and learning. But I think the word applies to everyone, for we all have a Father in heaven who must daily suffer us. Even at recess. I think the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) illustrates the thought.

Little people come in several sizes. It all depends on stature, age, disposition, etc. The term "little people" and suffering them also suggests how you, the teacher, think of them, regardless of size and mindset. Are you able to exclude anybody because of their "size" or your impression of their potential to learn about their faith and to share it? Furthermore, are there any trees from which you need to come down? Or look up?

Here are some valuable words from Paul—who himself was one time up a tree and out on a limb:

> *So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.* (Acts 10:34-35).

And consider this from Paul:

> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus* (Galatians 3:28).

Come down from your own tree. Help others down too. Be ever–green by faith.

> My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory (James 2:1).

Question for consideration and prayer: *Who do you need to "suffer"? Whose "suffering" do you need? (Wow here's a great place to consider double meanings.*

See a Psalm: *Psalm 103:6-19*

Put a song in your heart: *No favorites and kids too*

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Quoted Scripture: ESV®

A joyful heart is good medicine,
But a crushed spirit dries up the bones–Prov. 17:22 ESV