



September 18, 2009

"Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these," Luke 18:16b

What does that mean?

The outline of a fish...a school mascot...a cross. All of these are symbols. You see the fish on the back of cars all the time, and you figure a Christian owns that car. People started using the fish as a symbol of Christianity way back in the earliest days of Christian history.

Kids and teens—even grown-ups—put tigers and bears and cowboys on their t-shirts and backpacks to represent the school they cheer for. We see a cross and we think of Jesus dying for our sins. Symbols can be simple, but they can mean a lot.

A Christian worker was visiting some friends in a village in Guinea, Western Africa. They were talking about the name "Gabriel," when one man wrote a symbol in the dirt. Since the worker didn't understand the symbol, someone started to explain it. Another person interrupted and told him not to tell. They didn't want the Christian to learn the meaning.

The meaning of the symbol is still a secret to the worker...and to you and me. You and I know about the symbol of the cross. We know it means that Jesus died for our sins. It reminds us that "gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Do you keep the story of Jesus a secret like the man in Guinea keeps the meaning of that symbol a secret?

Jesus wants us to tell His story to others, so why not tell someone today? Pray for the men in the village in Guinea who often talk with this Christian worker. Pray that they will one day discover the meaning of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

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