

STORY

Jesus Teaches with Children - Matthew 18:1-6, 10; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48) and Blesses Them - Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, help me to remember again the lessons that Your Son Jesus taught through children. Show me again how to be humble and trusting in my faith before You all the days of my life. And as I set out to teach the "little ones" in my care, help me to remember how very important they are to You. Do not let anything I say or do mislead them into sin, or worse, into doubting or unbelief. As you have assured us it would be so when the children are brought to You, bless them in their precious faith that they may trust You for Salvation and all else that they need. I depend on You for all my needs as I come to You in prayer. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Converted - "turned", spiritually, turned from being a child of Satan to a child of God.

Receive the Kingdom of heaven or God - the Holy Spirit places faith in the heart, making a person a member of God's kingdom.

OUTER AIM

Jesus taught His disciples to be child-like in faith.

INNER AIM

A child-like faith looks to Jesus for all things.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 239-244)

On two separate occasions, Jesus brought His disciples down to earth with lessons about children. A number of times the disciples argued about who was or would be greatest of them. Sometimes they asked Jesus if they could sit as rulers on thrones with Jesus. Other times they wanted to imitate the rich and powerful. Visions of an earthly kingdom danced in their heads. But Jesus used a lesson with little children to teach them about greatness. Another time, Jesus' disciples did not want to bother Him with children. Sometimes children don't seem to be important to some people. They say things like, "He's just a child." But Jesus lets us know that children are very important to Him and can teach us something important about believing.

The first lesson: against pride

Luke 9:46

- ▶ These events happened shortly after the Transfiguration when Jesus had separated three of the disciples from the others to witness that event.
- ▶ Perhaps out of envy, Jesus' disciples started to argue as to who was greatest among them.

Matthew 18:1

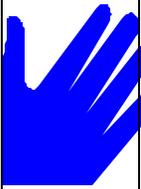
- ▶ They finally came to Jesus and voiced their question.

Luke 9:47

- ▶ Jesus, knew exactly what they were thinking and decided they needed a lesson in greatness. So He took a little child and set him before them.

Matthew 18:3

- ▶ Jesus wanted them to really think about what He had to say.



- ▶ Although the disciples confessed to believe in Jesus, their hearts still needed to be turned from their vain ambition and pride to the genuine humility of little children.
- ▶ Pride doesn't allow faith to confess how bad one's sins make one and how deserving a person is of punishment. Pride won't plead for mercy only on Christ's merits without any worthiness within. Pride would rather say, "I'm not as bad as other people. I've done a lot of good and deserve to be rewarded for it."
- ▶ You won't get anywhere in the kingdom of heaven where Christ rules with His Gospel if you have such pride.

Matthew 18:4

- ▶ A person whose faith and life is genuinely as humble as that of a little child will be lifted up before God in the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 9:48

- ▶ The proud are likely to despise the humble and the "little ones," namely children or people who are new to the Christian faith.
- ▶ But Jesus says that accepting them is the same as accepting Him and also God the Father.
- ▶ For in God's eyes, their humble faith in Him makes them great.

Matthew 18:6

- ▶ Then Jesus contrasts receiving them with causing them to sin.
- ▶ If in pride you turn away one of these little ones, or mislead them to sin in any way, you have done very serious harm.
- ▶ It would be better to lose your physical life, than to cause someone to lose his or her spiritual life by your misguiding them.

Matthew 18:10

- ▶ Jesus further warns, watch out how you treat these "little ones."
- ▶ Don't despise them for God has assigned angels to watch over them and report directly to Him all that happens with them. You don't want God to hear from them that you have looked down on or mistreated them, do you?

The second lesson: be innocently trusting of God

Mark 10:13

- ▶ Some parents, usually assumed to be their mothers, brought little children, Luke says infants, to Jesus for Him to bless them.
- ▶ According to the Jewish custom, parents often brought children to the rabbis and priests to be blessed.
- ▶ But the disciples rebuked them and tried to turn them away. Perhaps the disciples thought that these very small children and infants wouldn't be able to understand a blessing from Jesus. Or they didn't want to wear Jesus out after His long day of preaching.

v. 14

- ▶ Jesus became very angry, very indignant with his disciples when He saw them doing that.
- ▶ He told them to let the little children come to Him and don't forbid them.
- ▶ Why? Because infants also can and do believe, and their faith, which is dependent, without doubting, but simply accepting Jesus at His Word, exemplifies what all believers' faith should be like.
- ▶ From this we know also that infants and little children can be baptized, receiving from baptism the blessings of faith and forgiveness.
- ▶ It is wrong to prevent in any way children from receiving spiritual blessings from the Lord.

v. 15

- ▶ Jesus speaks very seriously to them. Without a faith like that of a little child, no person can have the Gospel rule their heart.

v. 16

- ▶ As further evidence of their importance, Jesus did gather them up in His arms, and personally gave them a blessing.
- ▶ Nothing implies their need for physical healing so we will assume that Jesus gave them spiritual blessings. For indeed, as infants they can believe and receive spiritual blessings.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, in the lesson today You are telling me how precious I am to You. You assure me that Your angels are watching over me. And that I too can receive the great blessings of forgiveness and Salvation that You have purchased for me. I ask Your blessing upon me today also. Help me to be and remain humble and trusting in You, now and as I grow older. Do not let me think that I don't need You for everything that is good for me. Let me never forget how important the "little ones" of life are to You. Thank You, oh Lord, for giving also to me all these many blessings and more besides. I trust in You, My Lord. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review the previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATIONS

1. These are important lessons that we can learn from little children. a) Jesus wants humility in us, not being proud and demanding the best positions. For "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." See Jam. 4:6-7; Luke 18:9-14. Discuss when children are humble and not proud. When does pride get in the way of faith? b) Jesus also wants our faith to be like that of infants. They trust completely without doubting and depend completely on others to provide their needs and care for them. So we need to do with our trust in God. We need to trust God completely when He speaks and guides us. We realize that we are entirely dependent upon Him for all our needs, both physical and spiritual. When people get older they begin to think that they can meet their own needs without Jesus or only depend on Him for certain things, but think they can do the rest on their own. This is foolishness, for in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). Grace is a gift of God, not of works (Eph 2:8).
2. These lessons teach how important children are to God. God has even directed special angels to watch over the "little ones" of all ages. He wants to protect them and nurture them in their faith. When children have parents and families who recognize that and teach them about Jesus, God is blessing them indeed. Certainly it is important that children, even infants, be brought to be baptized and be nurtured with the Word. The latter story is used in the Baptismal Liturgy as testimony that Baptism indeed brings the

blessings of faith and forgiveness to infants and children as well. Discuss how the children can know that God loves them too, no matter what their age. Let them know they can pray to God, learn from Him, and be blessed by Jesus too.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Mark 10:14 - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Middle any of the above and...

James 4:6-7 - But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Upper any of the above and...

2 Timothy 3:15 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 19:7 - The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psalms 19:8-10 - The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psalms 19:12-14 - Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

HYMN CHOICES

"Dear Father, Who Has Made Us All" (TLH #299)

"Dearest Jesus, We are Here" (TLH #300)

"Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd" (TLH #627)

"Shepherd of Tender Youth" (TLH #628)

Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48

Draw a circle around the picture of the person that you think is the most important person.



Today we will hear what Jesus says about being an important person.

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

As the disciples were with Jesus one day, they started arguing. They wanted to know who was the most important. Jesus knew what they were thinking.

The disciples asked him, "Who is best in heaven?"

Then Jesus picked up a little child. He said, "Become like children, or you will never go to heaven. Whoever is like a little child is best in heaven. Treat little children like you treat me. The smallest are the greatest to me.

Whoever tricks a little one to sin has sinned so badly that it would be better if a big rock was tied around him and he was thrown into the river to drown.

Another time, babies were brought to Jesus. The disciples told them the people with the babies to go away.

Jesus didn't like what He saw. He said, "I want little children to come to Me. Do not make them go away. The kingdom of heaven is made for them too. Older people should believe like little children do." Then He touched the little children and blessed them.

Passage

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Matthew 119:105



Hymn - WS 785 v. 1

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

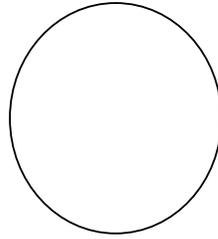
Prayer

Thank You, God, for giving me Your Word, the Bible. Thank You, Jesus, for taking all my sins away and making me one of Your children. Amen.

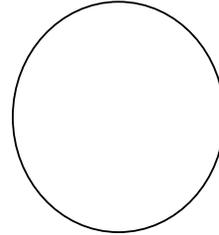


Classroom Activity - Help the children draw faces to answer these questions.

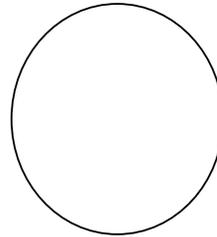
How did Jesus feel about the children?



How did the disciples feel about the children?

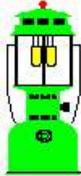


How did the children feel about Jesus?

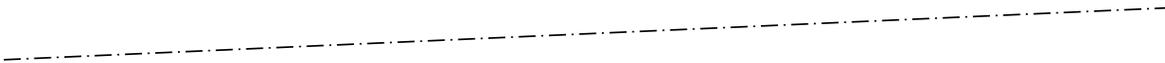


Classroom Activity - Help the children trace the two paths for this girl. Help them learn the passage using the pictures.



Matthew 119:105 “Your word is a lamp  to my feet

and a light  to my path.”

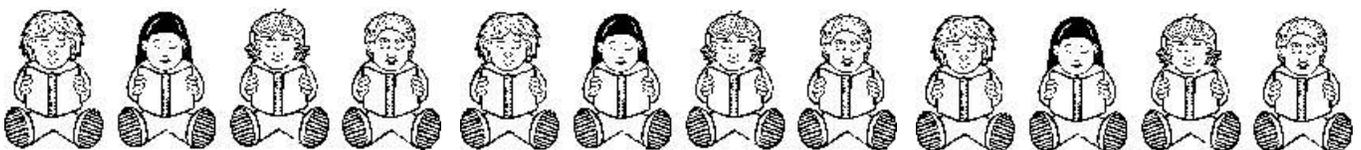


Classroom Art Activity - Help the children color the poster below. Add ribbon, fabric, buttons, glitter, etc. to make the children stand out. Help the children say and sing the hymn.



**Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

Worship Supplement 2000 - 785 v. 1

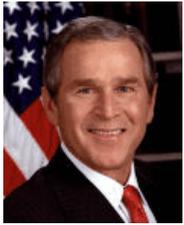


Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48



Draw a circle around the picture of the person that you think is the most important person.



Today we will hear what Jesus says about being an important person.

The Story

As the disciples were with Jesus one day, they started arguing. They wanted to know who was the most important. Jesus knew what they were thinking.

The disciples asked him, "Who is best in heaven?"

Then Jesus picked up a little child. He said, "Become like children, or you will never go to heaven. Whoever is like a little child is best in heaven. Treat little children like you treat me. The smallest are the greatest to me.

Whoever tricks a little one

to sin has sinned so badly that it would be better if a big rock was tied around his neck and he was thrown into the sea to drown.

Another time, babies were brought to Jesus. The disciples told them the people with the babies to go away.

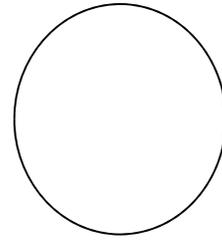
Jesus didn't like what He saw. He said, "I want little children to come to Me. Do not make them go away. The kingdom of heaven is made for them too. Older people should believe like little children do."

Then He touched the little

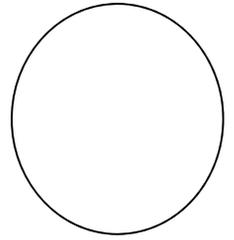
children and blessed them.

Activity One - Draw faces to answer these questions.

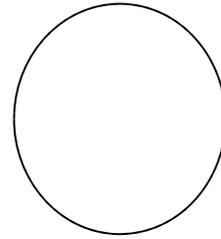
How did Jesus feel about the children?



How did the disciples feel about the children?



How did the children feel about Jesus?



Activity Two - Look at the first page of the lesson.

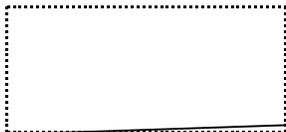
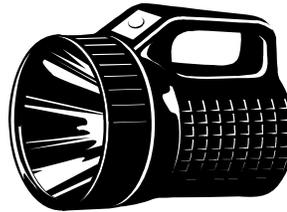
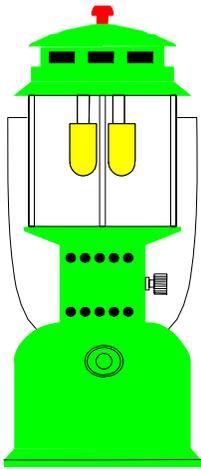
- Color the three people that Jesus said are very important.
- What makes little children so important?
- How can an adult become like a little child?

Prayer

Thank You, God, for giving me Your Word, the Bible. Thank you, Jesus, for taking all my sins away. Amen.

Activity Three - Cut out the words and glue them to the picture.

Matthew 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."



feet

light

lamp

path

Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48



The Story

The disciples argued about who was best. Jesus knew what they were thinking.

The disciples asked him, "Who is best in heaven?"

Then Jesus picked up a little child. He said, "Unless you are converted and become just like children, you will never go to heaven. Whoever treats a little child well, treats Me the same way and whoever treats Me kindly treats the Father the same way. Whoever is least among you will be great. But whoever tricks one of these little ones to sin is in big trouble. It would be better for him to have a huge stone around his neck, and to drown in the deep sea.

Another time, they also brought babies to Jesus so He could hold them and pray for them. The disciples saw the people bring the children and told them to go away.

Jesus didn't like what He saw. He said, "I want little children to come to Me, do not make them go away. The kingdom of heaven is made for them, too. Whoever does not have a child-like faith, will not be in heaven." And He touched the little children and blessed them.

Review

1. Color the people who were mad.
2. Why were they mad?
3. Color the people Jesus was happy to meet.
4. Why was He happy to meet them?
5. Color the person who took away our sins so we can go to heaven.
6. Why did He die for us?

Activity - Complete the Crossword Puzzle below.

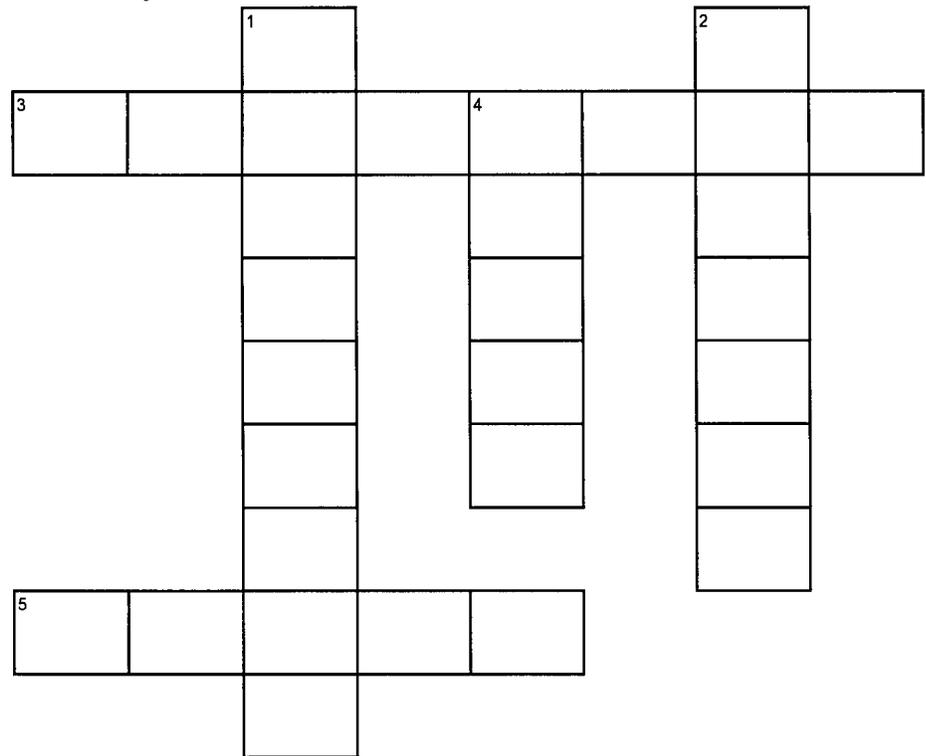
Across

- Whom did Jesus touch and bless?
- What did the people want Jesus to do for the children?

Down

- Who didn't want the children to come to Jesus?
- Little children can also _____ in Jesus.
- What would happen to people in the sea with stones around their necks?

Activity



Passages

Mark 10:14 - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Hymn - TLH 627 v. 1, 2, 4

Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd,
Children all are dear to Thee;
Gathered with Thine arms and carried
In Thy bosom may they be;
Sweetly, fondly, safely, tended,
From all want and danger free.

Tender Shepherd, never leave them,
Never let them go astray;
By Thy warning love directed,
May they walk the narrow way!
Thus direct them, thus defend them,
Lest they fall an easy prey.

Let Thy holy Word instruct them;
Fill their minds with heavenly light;
Let Thy powerful grace constrain them
To approve whate'er is right;
Let them feel Thy yoke is easy,
Let them prove Thy burden light.

Talking to Jesus

Thank You, God, for loving little children.
Thank You for sending Jesus.
Thank You Jesus for Your blessing.
Help us to live as Your children. Amen.

Jesus and the Children

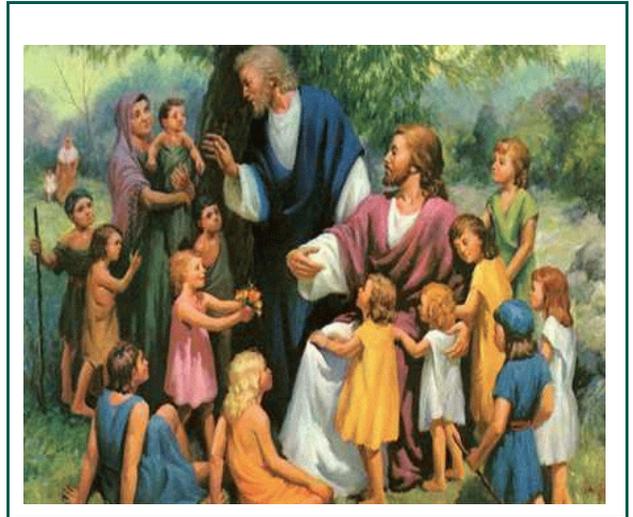
Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48

Who is more important, adults or children?
This question has many answers.

Can anyone remain a child for ever?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, we praise You for sending Your Son to die for us. We are thankful that You love all people including children. Help us to learn from this lesson the ways to remain Your true children.



The Story

Jesus and the Children:

Jesus Teaches with Children - Luke 9:46-48; Matthew 18:1-6,10; Mark 10:13-16

Jesus Blesses Them - Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

The disciples argued about who was best. Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked them about it.

The disciples asked Him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus took a little child in His arms. He said, "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will never go to heaven. Whoever is humble like a little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever treats

a little child like a Christian should, treats Me the same way and whoever treats Me kindly treats the Father the same way. Whoever is least among you will be great. But whoever tricks one of these little ones to sin is in big trouble. It would be better for him if a huge stone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the deep sea.

Another time, they also brought babies to Jesus so He could hold them and pray for them. The disciples saw the people bring the



children and told them to go away.

Jesus didn't like what He saw. He said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not make them go away. The kingdom of heaven is

made for them, too. Whoever does not have child-like faith, will not be in heaven." And He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

What the Story Tells Us

1. What were the disciples fighting about?
2. How does Jesus feel about boasting?
3. Who did the disciples tell to go away?
4. How could the disciples show Jesus they understood how to act in heaven?

Outer Aim

Jesus taught His disciples to be child-like in faith.

What God Tells Us - Mark your answers as (T) rue or (F) alse.

1. _____ Jesus knew what the disciples were thinking.
2. _____ The disciples were acting like Christians.
3. _____ Punishment is worse for people who trick children about God.
4. _____ God loves adults more than children.
5. _____ Children are sinless.

Passages

James 4:6-7 - But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but give grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct your paths.**

Inner Aim

A child-like faith looks to Jesus for all things.

Hymn

Read Hymn 627. In stanza one, to what are children being compared?

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages, and hymn to help you complete the following activities.

What would you tell a parent who was concerned about their baby fussing in church?

How and why should a Christian become childlike?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, in the lesson today You are telling me how precious I am to You. You assure me that Your angels are watching over me, and that I too can receive the great blessings of forgiveness and salvation that You have purchased for me. I ask Your blessing upon me today also. I ask you to bless me and help me to be humble and trusting. Remind me that I need You every day of my life. Thank You for caring for each of us, even though we are very young, and bring us all one day to live with You in heaven. Amen.

Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48

Who is gathered around Jesus in the picture ?

Whom would people think are more important - the disciples or the children?

How do you think Jesus feels about all children?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, today You will comfort us with a story about children. Often people don't think that children are very important. Today we learn how important all children are to You. Help us to

hear Your words and to learn how we should act as your children. We ask this in Your name and are sure that our Father will hear and answer our requests. Amen.

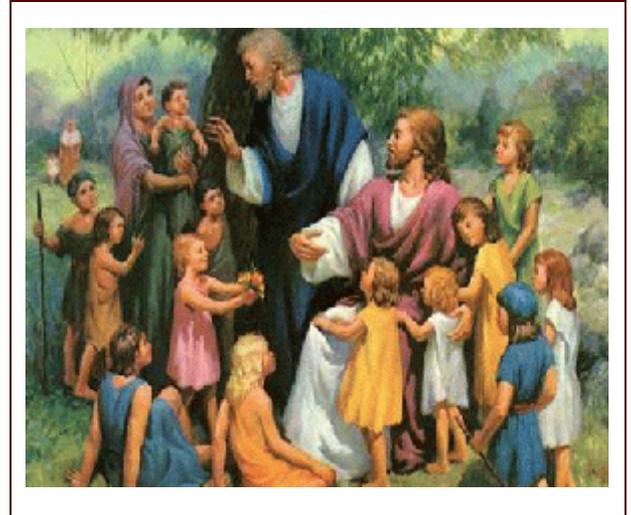
The Story - Jesus and the Children:

Jesus Teaches With Children - Luke 9:46-48; Matthew 18:1-6,10; Mark 10:13-16

Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. Jesus perceived what they were thinking and asked them about it.

The disciples asked Him, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, and took him in His arms. Then He set him down and said, "Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you will be great. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Jesus Blesses Them - Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Another time, they also brought infants to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples saw it and rebuked them.



But when Jesus saw this He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of

heaven. Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

What the Story Tells Us

1. What were the disciples fighting about?
2. How did Jesus know what the disciples were fighting about?
3. What did Jesus say would happen to them if they didn't change?
4. What warning did Jesus give if you do not have faith like a child?
5. Who kept the infants from Jesus?
6. How did Jesus show His love for the children?

Outer Aim

Jesus taught His disciples to be child-like in faith.

What God Tells Us - Answer each question.

1. Who is greatest in the kingdom of God?
2. Whom do people treat kindly when they treat little children kindly?
3. Why were little children brought to Jesus?
4. How did Jesus show He loved the children?
5. What are parents to do for their children (Ephesians 6:4)?

Passages - Read the passages and answer the questions that are after the passages.

2 Timothy 3:15 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 19:7 - The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psalms 19:8-10 - The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 19:12-14 - Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

1. What converts the soul?
2. How much of Scripture is inspired by God?
3. What is more desirable than gold?
4. When are we to start learning the things that make us wise for salvation?

Inner Aim

A child-like faith looks to Jesus for all things.

Hymn

Read Hymn 299. In stanza two, why do “we bring this little child to thee”?

In stanza four, what are the two things that cleanse the child?

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages, and hymn to help you complete the following activities.

What ways should a person who has a childlike faith act?

How should people feel about little children even when they cry during the church service?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

In the lesson today You are telling me how precious I am to You. You assure me that Your angels are watching over me. And that I too can receive the great blessings of forgiveness and Salvation that You have purchased for me. I ask Your blessing upon me today also. Help me to be and remain humble and trusting in You, now as I grow older. Do not let me think that I don't need You for everything that is good for me. Let me never forget how important the "little ones" of life are to You. Thank You, oh Lord, for giving also to me all these many blessings and more besides. I trust in You, My Lord.

Amen.