

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.

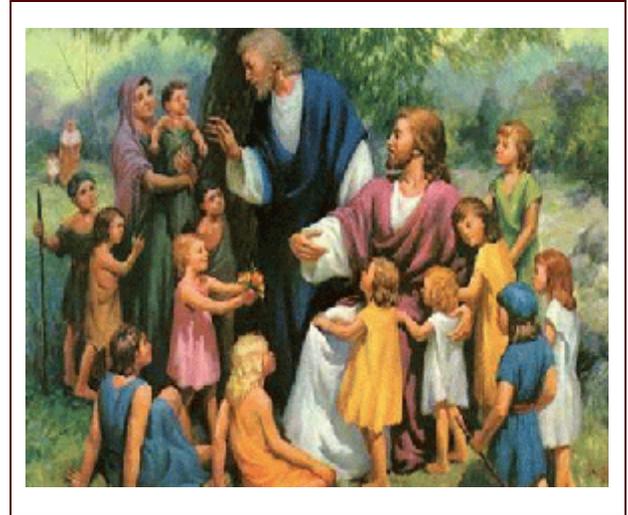
The Story - Jesus and the Children:

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.