

Week 42 Parent Sheet: Jesus and the Children

Mark 10:13-16 NIV

Even though adults tend to devalue little children, Jesus loves them and explains their importance!

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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Many Events of Jesus' Life in Chronological Order:

- Born (5 BC)
- Named – when 8 days old
- Presented at the Temple – when 40 days old
- Visited by Wise Men – when 2 to 5 months old
- Fled to Egypt – when 2 to 5 months old
- Returned to live in Nazareth – when 1 year old
- His parents thought He was lost – when 12 years old
- Baptized by John – when 30 years old
- Some important events of His three-year ministry:
 - ➔ Tempted in the wilderness
 - ➔ Moved from Nazareth to Capernaum
 - ➔ Called His disciples
 - ➔ Preached the Sermon on the Mount
 - ➔ Performed many miracles
 - ➔ Sent out His disciples to heal and teach
 - ➔ Warned about persecution
 - ➔ Told many parables
 - ➔ Heard of the death of John the Baptist
 - ➔ **More miracles and teaching**
 - ➔ Transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him
 - ➔ More miracles and teaching
 - ➔ Welcomed into Jerusalem – on Palm Sunday
 - ➔ Taught many things – on Holy Tuesday
 - ➔ Instituted the Lord's Supper – on Holy Thursday
 - ➔ Arrested, tried, crucified, and died – on Good Friday
 - ➔ Raised to life – on the third day, Easter Sunday
 - ➔ Ascended into heaven – 40 days after Easter

Background: Jesus, *the Son of God*, is doing His ministry of teaching and healing. In this reading we will see the value of little children and the need for adults to possess one of their somewhat natural qualities.

Jesus and the Children:

1. Keeping the children away: ¹³ **People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.** // Jesus loved the little children, He wanted to bless them; however, the disciples saw them as unimportant, *even as an inconvenience*. So Jesus' disciples kept rebuking the people who were bringing little children to Jesus.
2. Jesus was angry, but He did not sin: ¹⁴ **When Jesus saw this, he was indignant [righteously angry]. He**

said to them, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”** // How old were the children? The NIV Bible uses the words: **“little children.”** A parallel text in Luke chapter 18 uses a different word for children, which is used in the Bible to refer to babies, those who are still nursing, even those who are not yet born. So the children were probably very young, thus unable to understand Jesus' blessings; nevertheless, *they received them!*

3. The importance of child-like faith: ¹⁵ **“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”** // Children are examples to us:
 - a. As adults, we think that children should become like us; however, Jesus tells us the vital importance of *us becoming like them!*
 - b. Children are weak and helpless, cannot buy or earn their way into heaven, and believe all that God has declared to be true in His Word. When it comes to entering into heaven, Jesus calls us to trust in Him with a child-like faith.
4. Jesus wants to bless children and people of all ages: ¹⁶ **And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.** // Some people reason in this way: Little children are sweet, innocent, and without sin, so they do not need the blessings God gives through baptism, but consider this:
 - a. Sin and spiritual death have spread to all people (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12), even to very small children. Therefore, they need His blessings of forgiveness, spiritual life, and eternal salvation.
 - b. The Bible teaches that God has chosen to impart those precious blessings to small children in and through the waters of holy baptism (Acts 2:38-39; Galatians 3:27; Titus 3:5).

Thoughts: All have sinned, so none of us deserve God's forgiveness. Nevertheless, He freely, lovingly, and willingly offers it all – *so let us gladly receive by grace through faith!*