

THE JOY OF JESUS

Character

LESSON 3

LESSON TEXT

Mark 10:13-16

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will state one way in which Jesus showed his love for children.
- The students will identify at least three childlike qualities that we need to have.
- The students will act out the story of Jesus with the children.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- 8 pieces white poster board, 3" x 8"
- 7 pieces of yarn, 36" long
- single hole punch
- markers
- extra Bibles
- globe or map of the world
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
 Teacher Focus
 Teacher Tips
 Preclass Activity: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Worksheet
 Starting Up
 Welcome and Singing
 Opening Prayer
 Victories
 Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

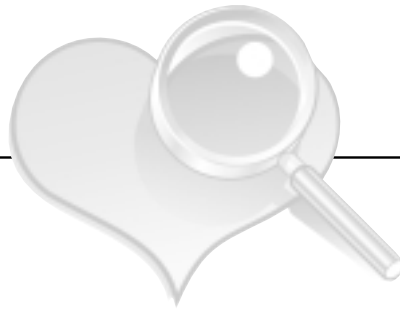
Story: Keeping Faith with the Children
 Scripture Study
 Activity: Play Rehearsal, "Jesus and the Little Children"

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Mark 10:15
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
 Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.
 Mark 10:15



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Mark 10:13-16 until you understand the basic story and the lessons it holds. Think of one specific way or a specific time you stayed faithful and were rewarded in the end with joy and love. Write down that incident and what your specific emotions and thoughts were at that time.

TEACHER TIPS

The focus of this lesson is joy. Consider your heart as you prepare this lesson. Are you full of joy in your life as well as in your role as a teacher? Your joy will guide your students to have the same heart.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

"JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN" WORKSHEET

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

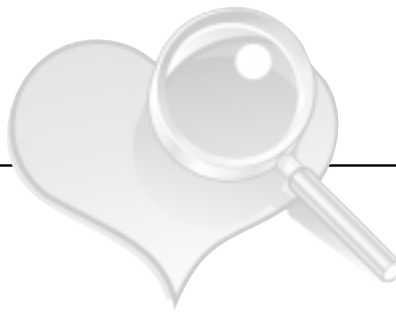
Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page A ("Jesus Loves the Little Children" Worksheet) and a pen or pencil to the students as they arrive.
2. Help each student to understand the instructions to decode the message. Each letter has been given a symbol. The students should match the symbols to the letters to decode the message.
3. The message is "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." (Mark 10:15)





STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

VICTORIES

Take time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class.

Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times?

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTION

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share.





GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

Have all of the students take out their copies of Reproducible Page A. Discuss the meaning of the scripture. Explain that Jesus was very serious about our need to have the heart of a child, and that he expected his disciples to possess such a heart.

STORY

KEEPING FAITH WITH THE CHILDREN

In this story, the children trust in the unseen. They have never seen the "color red," but somehow they know it's the color they all want. The children have come to believe and trust Janice. Her faithfulness to her word brought joy to the children. They never doubted that their request would be granted. The children stayed faithful, and their faith was rewarded in the end. How strong is your faith? Does your faith in God bring joy and love to your life and to the lives of others?

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page B (the story) to the students.
2. Read the story to the students.
3. Explain and discuss the story concept. Help the students understand that some of the students in the Sunset Valley School were probably preteens just like them. Explain that these children had a special appreciation for life and simply wanted to enjoy the little things around them.
4. *What can you learn about Janice Long, their teacher?*
 - She loved her job.
 - She loved the children that she taught.
 - She believed that a promise made to these children needed to be honored.
 - She knew it was important that the children trust her word.
5. *How did the children feel about their blindness?*
 - They didn't feel sorry for themselves.
 - They felt blessed to have someone like Janice Long to teach them.
 - They felt secure and taken care of.

6. *Why was the color of the car and the lettering on the car important?*
 - It meant that their wishes were important.
 - It meant that the car was "theirs," not a "loaner" car.
 - They could imagine the car in their minds.
 - They would feel proud riding in the car.
7. *Why was it important to Janice to honor the children's request?*
 - It is possible that many other people had let these children down before.
 - Others did not care about what these children wanted or desired.
 - Others ridiculed their blindness and felt that what they could not see did not matter.
 - She respected the children and gave importance to their wishes.
 - She knew the children believed in her.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have the students take out their Bibles and turn to Mark 10:13-16. Select a volunteer to read the passage. *Why were the disciples angry when people brought the children to Jesus?*

- They did not understand Jesus' compassion for people.
- They thought that spending time with small children would be a waste of time.
- The disciples may have only been concerned with their own needs.
- The disciples were not thinking about the long-term impact that Jesus was having on people.

Jesus told his disciples that anyone who wanted to go to heaven would have to receive the kingdom like a little child. What is it about little children that Jesus was wanting his followers to imitate? (Children are moldable and teachable. They are good learners. Children are eager and willing to listen to Jesus' teaching. Children have humble hearts and change when corrected. Children are not boastful and arrogant.

Explain to the class that these are characteristics that are absolutely essential if we are to be joyful disciples.



GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

ACTIVITY

PLAY REHEARSAL

"Jesus and the Little Children"

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 8 pieces white poster board, 3" x 8"
- 7 pieces of yarn, 36" long
- single hole punch
- markers

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

PREPARATION

Option: You could have the students put the play on for the 4- and 5-year-old class if you arrange with the teacher ahead of time. Since the teachers are trying to achieve the objectives in their classes, though, it might not work well for the younger students to watch the play. (The performance should take no longer than ten minutes.)

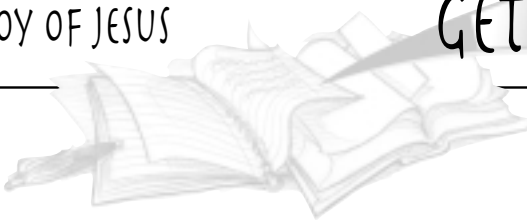
INSTRUCTIONS

1. During the Activity Section the students will practice a play that will be performed during the next class period, either in their own class or for a younger children's class.
2. Assign roles to the students according to the script of the play.
3. Make signs for each of the characters (Jesus, Peter, James, John and three signs that say Parent. Use yarn and a hole punch to hang the signs around the necks of the characters).
4. Walk through the play slowly and determine when each person will enter and where they will sit or stand.
5. If you put the play on for the 4- and 5-year-old class, several of those children will participate by acting out the roles of the children.
6. Have each of the characters rehearse their lines so that they know what they are supposed to say and do. Some characters may want to memorize their lines. Longer lines need not be memorized unless the student would like to.
7. Practice the play until the students feel comfortable with it.

NOTE

Students may wish to make arrangements to wear a costume (or bring a costume to put on) for the performance. Teachers must communicate all arrangements with the Supplement Lesson preteen teachers. After the signs have been made, teachers should collect them and deliver them to the teacher of the Supplement Lesson.





SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Mark 10:15

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

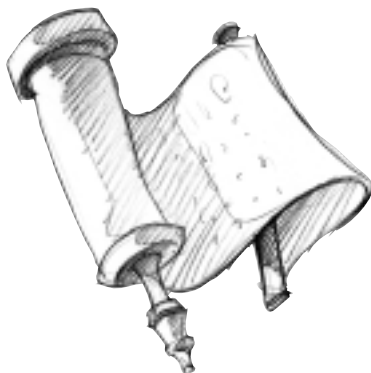
MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page D (Scripture Memory Verse).
2. Have the students say the memory verse together aloud several times.
3. Talk about what the verse means.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

While the students are eating, ask them why it is important to love and encourage young children in the church the way Jesus did. Ask why they think the younger children might be hesitant to come up and talk to them at church.

Ask how they feel when they meet an adult in fellowship that they have never met before. *Why do you think it is important to get to know disciples in the church?* Be sure to explain your own convictions about the family of God, and how important it is to know the other members of the family, in order to love them, encourage them, and meet their needs. This brings us joy in the kingdom.

The challenge for this week is for each student to have a conversation with an adult in the fellowship they have never met before. They need to find out several things:

1. What is their name?
2. How long have they been a disciple?
3. What are they studying in their quiet times this week?
4. Who are their best friends in the church?

Have the students write down these questions on their memory verse page.

Encourage the students to give of themselves and take on the challenge before next class.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

THE JOY OF JESUS

Character
LESSON 3
(SUPPLEMENT)

LESSON TEXT

Mark 10:13-16

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will state one way in which Jesus showed his love for children.
- The students will identify at least three childlike qualities that we need to have.
- The students will act out the story of Jesus with the children.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 1 sheet white paper, 8 1/2" x 11"

For the teacher:

- magazines
- glue sticks
- dictionaries
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, several extra copies
- Page D, several extra copies
- Page E, 1 copy for each student
- Page F, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction

Teacher Focus

Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: "Jesus and the Children" Word Search/Scrambled Words

Starting Up

Welcome and Singing

Opening Prayer

Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

Scripture Study

Activity: Play Performance, "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Mark 10:15

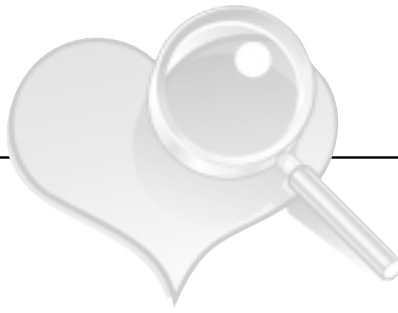
Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORYVERSE

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Mark 10:15



FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Mark 10:13-16 until you understand the basic story and the lessons it holds. Think of one specific way or a specific time you stayed faithful and were rewarded in the end with joy and love. Write down that incident and what your specific emotions and thoughts were at that time.

TEACHER TIPS

The focus of this lesson is joy. Consider your heart as you prepare this lesson. Are you full of joy in your life as well as in your role as a teacher? Your joy will guide your students to have the same heart.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

"JESUS AND THE CHILDREN" WORD SEARCH

SCRAMBLED WORDS FOR BREAKFAST

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

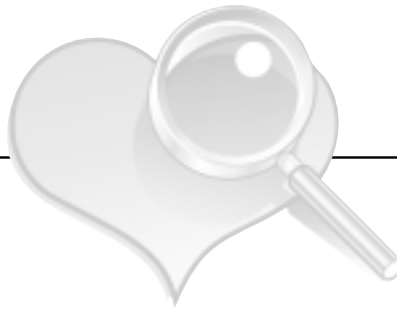
- dictionaries

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each student
- Page F, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of both of the worksheets and a pen or pencil to the students as they arrive.
2. Have each student complete the Word Search Activity (Reproducible Page E) first. The students should look up "truth" in the dictionary and write down the definition in the space provided on this sheet.
3. After completing the Word Search, they can begin working on Part Two (Reproducible Page F). The words in Part Two have been scrambled. The students should unscramble the words and put them into the correct spaces. Numbers 2, 7, 15 and 18 have been done as examples.
4. See puzzle key on page 9.



STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

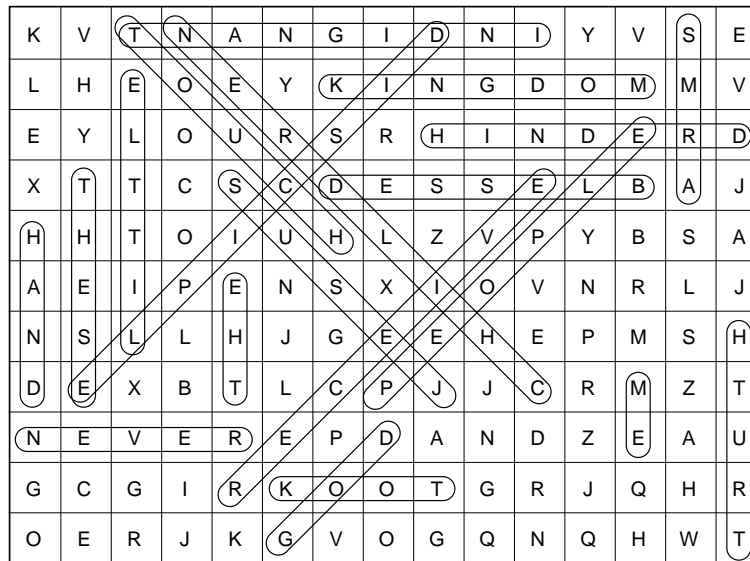
Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief, so that as many as possible can share.





Have the students take out their preclass activity sheets (Reproducible Pages E and F). Go through the second sheet especially to make sure each student was able to unscramble the words. If some need a hint, suggest that they look at the words starting with the last letter first.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Ask the students to take out their Bibles and turn to Mark 10:13-16. Select a volunteer to read the passage.

Ask the students to share what they learned during their last class. Get as many students as possible to participate and share aspects that were significant to them.





ACTIVITY

PLAY PERFORMANCE

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, extra copies

PREPARATION

1. Obtain from the Core teacher a list of those who were assigned parts in the play.
2. Get the signs that were made for the students to wear in the play.
3. Be aware that some students may bring costumes.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. During this activity section, the students will perform their play. Pass out copies of the script to any students who were not at the previous class or forgot their copies.

2. Discuss the flow of the play. Walk the students through the play, instructing them about when to enter, what order, etc. Be sure all are clear on the parts they have been assigned, and where they will need to stand. Walk through the play slowly at first, directing the students in acting out the various parts. Finally, do a full run-through of the performance.
3. If the students are going to put the play on for the 4- and 5-year-old class, line them up to quietly walk to the classroom. Use three children from the class to fill the children's parts in the play. When the teachers are ready, have the preteens perform the play. (If the students are going to perform the play in their own classroom, allow several preteens to play the roles of the little children.) Return quietly to the classroom when finished.
4. Discuss what was learned from the play, and what they see as Jesus' attitude toward learning.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Mark 10:15

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, several extra copies (for visiting students)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask the students if anyone can recite the memory scripture for this week.
2. After several have quoted the verse, recite it together as a class two or three times.
3. Hand out copies of Reproducible Page D to those students who don't already have it.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

(The students were asked to have a conversation in fellowship with an adult they do not know, and to become friends by asking them some questions.)

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 1 sheet of white paper, 8½" x 11"

For the teacher:

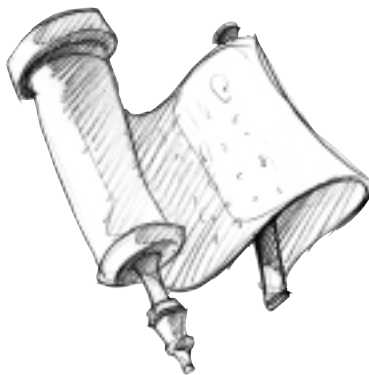
- magazines
- glue sticks

INSTRUCTIONS

If time permits, the students can make a small poster on an 8½" x 11" sheet of white paper. Using the magazines provided, students should cut out one picture that shows people displaying warmth, joy or happiness. The pictures should be glued to the white paper. The students should then write on the paper (on the back, if necessary) why they chose the picture and how it expresses warmth, joy or happiness.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.



JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Every letter in the coded message below is represented by one of the symbols. Match the symbols with their appropriate letters. The symbols below give a very important message from Jesus. Can you figure it out?

Hint: When you spell God, it looks like this: ☆★%

☆ = A

% = C

⌘ = D

⬤ = E

◆ = F

◇ = G

★ = H

☆ = I

★ = K

★ = L

★ = M

★ = N

★ = O

★ = R

* = S

* = T

⌘ = U

★ = V

* = W

* = Y

☆ * ⬤ ☆ ☆ * ☆ ⌘ * ☆ ⌘ * ☆ * * * *
 ☆ ☆ * ☆ ☆ ⬤ * ☆ ☆ * ☆ ☆ ☆ * * *
 ☆ ⬤ % ⬤ ☆ * ⬤ * ☆ ⬤ ☆ ☆ ◇ % ☆ ☆
 ☆ ◆ ◇ ☆ % ☆ ☆ ☆ ⬤ ☆ ☆ ☆ * * ☆ ⬤
 % ☆ ☆ ☆ % * ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ⬤ * ☆ ⬤ ☆
 ⬤ ☆ * ⬤ ☆ ☆ ☆ *

KEEPING FAITH WITH THE CHILDREN

Janice Long loved her job working at the Sunset Valley School for children with special needs. She marveled at their appreciation for all that was done for them, as well as the almost complete lack of bitterness that they had. Not all aspects of Janice's work, however, were as delightful as her interactions with the children. On the school's governing board were some of the city's most important citizens. They often disagreed with her on policy decisions. Fortunately, Janice had one friend on the board, a housewife who usually backed her in her disagreements with the board, most of which were about money and the "sensible" use of it.

At today's meeting, though, Janice was certain that there wouldn't be any squabbles. A local philanthropist had given the school a check to buy a brand new station wagon for field trips. When the children heard about the check, they had shouted and clapped and laughed in their delight. When Janice asked them to select a color for the station wagon, they had called out in unison: "Red!" One of the boys had then wondered, *"Please, Miss Long, will it have our name on it?"*

"In gold," answered Janice.

But when Janice came before the board to get their blessing, Mason Arnold, an auto agency owner, thought it was rather ridiculous to insist on a red car. He said they could save money by buying a brand-new, last-year's model from his dealership, a car that happened to be green. When Janice protested, Arnold shot back, *"What difference does the color make?"* Buying a red car, Janice insisted, was a matter of keeping faith with the children.

Finally, the housewife stepped into the discussion. *"The color is a little thing to us, perhaps,"* she explained. *"But I was never more sure of Miss Long's excellence in this position than I am right now. You have to keep faith with the children, Mr. Arnold."* Moved by her words, the board decided that Janice should go immediately to pick up the red station wagon, bring it back to school, and beep the horn to summon the children as she drove into the parking lot.

When Janice returned, according to plan, and honked the horn, the children came hurrying out of the school, almost before the echo had subsided. As they gathered around the bright new car, little Whitney explored the lettering on the front door with his fingers. *"Our name's here,"* he cried.

Then Miss Long invited a little girl named Peg to step forward. Grasping Peg's soft, tiny fingers, Miss Long ran them along the slightly raised lettering and read the words aloud to her: "SUNSET VALLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND."

The tiny girl's dark, blank eyes opened wide with delight. *"And is it red, Miss Long?"* she asked. Before Janice could answer, however, Whitney, his sensitive fingers still moving over the sleek front fender, answered for her: *"Of course it's red, Peggy. Isn't that what we ordered?"*

"Oh, please," Janice whispered, catching her breath and biting her lip, *"let everyone keep faith with them always."*

(Condensed from: Leon Ware, "The Red Wagon," *Together Magazine* Compilation, 1964.)

JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN

CHARACTERS: Jesus Parent 1 Several children
Peter Parent 2
James Parent 3
John Crowd



SCENE ONE

(Three parents enter the room, each with a child. Jesus then enters the room, followed by Peter, James, and John and then the crowd. Jesus remains standing while everyone else sits down.)

(Jesus motions to Parent 1.)

JESUS: "Please let me see your child for just a moment." *(The parent agrees and one of the children comes up to Jesus. Jesus sits on a chair and puts the child in his lap.)* "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

PARENT 2: *(brings her child up to Jesus)* "Jesus, would you bless my child?"
(Jesus nods his head "yes" and embraces the child.)

(Parents 1 and 3 also come forward.)

(Peter, James and John stand up and speak to the parents.)

PETER: "Why are you bothering Jesus with these little children? Don't you realize he has more important things to do?"

JAMES: "You people should realize that Jesus is a very important man. He is training us and we should be getting his attention, not these children."

JOHN: *(speaking to Jesus)* "Jesus, do you want us to make these people go away so that you can get back to your teaching?"

JESUS: *(stands and speaks to his disciples)* "Why are you talking like that? Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

(Jesus sits back down and takes all three children in his arms.)

PETER: "Jesus, help us to understand."

JOHN: "Yes, Jesus, we want to be like little children. What is it that you want us to learn?"

JESUS: *(holding one of the children in his arms)* "Look at these children. They are eager to learn. Their hearts are humble and will change when they are corrected. They are not boastful and proud, and they know they need help to know what to do. Yes, if you wish to enter the kingdom of God, you must become like a little child."

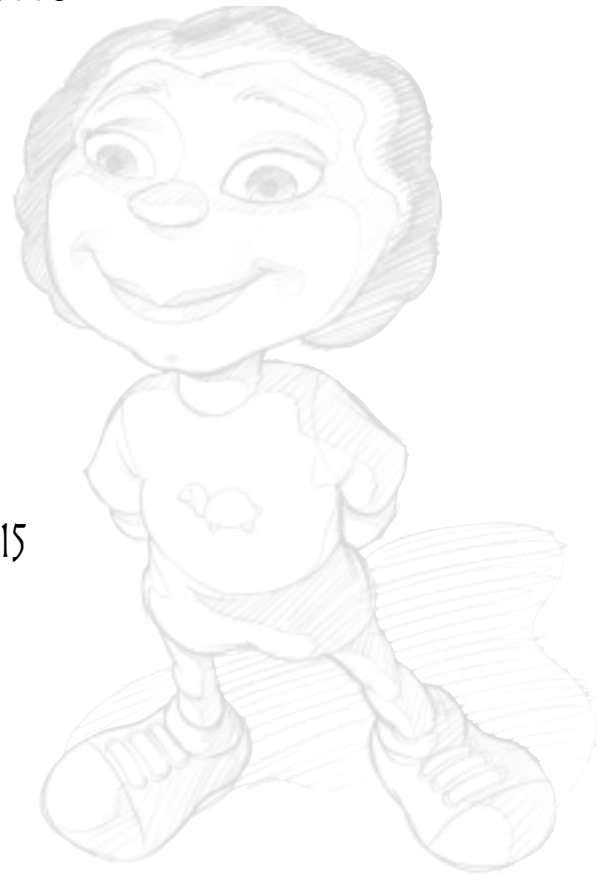
(Jesus stands and exits and the rest of the people follow him.)

THE END

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

I tell you the truth, anyone
who will not receive
the kingdom of God
like a little child
will never enter it.

MARK 10:15



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Have a conversation in fellowship with an adult whom you do not know. Ask the following questions: (1) What is your name? (2) How long have you been a disciple? (3) What are you studying in your quiet times? (4) Who are your best friends in the church?

JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN

WORD SEARCH

K	V	T	N	A	N	G	I	D	N	I	Y	V	S	E
L	H	E	O	E	Y	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	M	V
E	Y	L	O	U	R	S	R	H	I	N	D	E	R	D
X	T	T	C	S	C	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	A	J
H	H	T	O	I	U	H	L	Z	V	P	Y	B	S	A
A	E	I	P	E	N	S	X	I	O	V	N	R	L	J
N	S	L	L	H	J	G	E	E	H	E	P	M	S	H
D	E	X	B	T	L	C	P	J	J	C	R	M	Z	T
N	E	V	E	R	E	P	D	A	N	D	Z	E	A	U
G	C	G	I	R	K	O	O	T	G	R	J	Q	H	R
O	E	R	J	K	G	V	O	G	Q	N	Q	H	W	T

Find the following words in the Word Search above.

All the words are found in Mark 10:13-16:

PEOPLE
TOUCH
LITTLE
KINGDOM
TRUTH
NEVER
HAND

CHILDREN
DISCIPLE
ME
THESE
RECEIVE
TOOK
BLESSED

JESUS
INDIGNANT
HINDER
THE
GOD
ARMS



SCRAMBLED SDROW (WORDS) FOR BREAKFAST!

Several of the key words from a scripture have been scrambled below.
How many of the words can you unscramble *without* using your Bible?

Using the words listed below, unscramble them and put them in the
appropriately numbered spaces. A few of the words have been done for you.
(Hint: Look for a pattern in how the words are scrambled.)

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ELPOEP | 7. TNANGIDNI | 13. EHT | 19. SMRA |
| 2. NERDLIHC | 8. ELTTIL | 14. HTURT | 20. SDNAH |
| 3. SUSEJ | 9. EM | 15. EVIECER | 21. DESSELB |
| 4. HCUOT | 10. REDNIH | 16. DOG | |
| 5. SELPICSID | 11. MODGNIK | 17. REVEN | |
| 6. SUSEJ | 12. ESEHT | 18. KOOT | |



_____ were bringing little CHILDREN to _____ to
(1) (2) (3)
have him _____ them, but the _____ rebuked them.
(4) (5)
When _____ saw this, he was INDIGNANT. He said to them,
(6) (7)
"Let the _____ children come to _____ and do not
(8) (9)
_____ them, for the _____ of God belongs to such
(10) (11)
as _____. I tell you _____ _____,
(12) (13) (14)
anyone who will not RECEIVE the kingdom of _____
(15) (16)
like a little child will _____ enter it." And he TOOK
(17) (18)
the children in his _____, put his _____ on them and
(19) (20)
_____ them.
(21)