

Jesus Blesses the Children

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Scene Summary

Jesus blesses the children presents the tender story of Jesus’ concern for little children at a time when He is busy with other important matters.. Scenes include: Jesus teaching the people...He answers difficult questions...He heals the sick...woman bring their children to Jesus...the disciples turn them away...Jesus scolds the disciples...He calls to the children...He blesses them...He teaches His disciples a lesson.

Scripture

(Mark 10:13-16 NRSV) People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. {14} But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. {15} Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." {16} And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

(Luke 18:15-17 NRSV) People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. {16} But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. {17} Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Person 1, 2, 3** – People that ask Jesus important and sometimes hard questions.
- **Blind Person** – Sightless, possibly with a scarf around the eyes.
- **Disciple 1, 2, 3** – Followers of Christ, learning an important lesson.
- **Child 1, 2, 3** – Children wanting to see Jesus.

- **Mothers** – Several non-speaking role.
- **Jesus** – God’s One and Only Son.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.

Script – Jesus Blesses the Children

Narrator: Everywhere Jesus went, people wanted to see Him. They wanted to talk to Him and to learn more about God. Jesus told them many things about His heavenly Father. People ask Him important and sometimes hard questions.

Person 1: What is God like?

Person 2: How can I go to heaven?

Person 3: How many times must I forgive someone who does wrong?

Narrator: Jesus took time to answer each question. [pause] A blind man called to Jesus.

Blind Person: Jesus, please heal me.

Narrator: Friends and relatives brought sick people to Jesus. Jesus would speak to the people and sometimes touch them and made them well. Children loved Him too. Sometimes they followed Him, or pushed their way through the crowd to see Him. Jesus was always glad to see the children. He loved them too. [pause] One day, some mothers heard that Jesus was in town, so they decided to take their children to see this great teacher. They hurried through the streets to the place where Jesus was.

Disciple 1: I hope those women are not bringing their children to talk to Jesus.

Disciple 2: He has more important things to do than to talk to children.

Disciple 3: Besides, He is tired and need to rest.

Child 1: I want to see Jesus.

Child 2: Doesn't He look kind?

Child 3: Come on! Hurry!

Disciple 1: [sternly to the mothers] Take your children away, Jesus is too busy to see them.

Disciple 2: Jesus is busy with important people. He doesn't have time for you.

Disciple 3: Jesus has been teaching all day. He needs to rest. He is tired.

Narrator: The mothers were very sad and the children were sad too. Some of the children began to cry. They wanted to talk to Jesus. They wanted to hear about the heavenly Father too. Jesus heard what the disciples had said and He saw the women and children turn to go.

Jesus: [to the disciples] Don't ever turn the children away. They are important too. [to the mothers and children] Come back! Come back!

Narrator: How happy the children were to hear the great Teacher's words. Mothers smiled as Jesus took their children in His arms, or patted them on their shoulders and talked to them.

Jesus: [to His disciples] Don't ever again send children away. I love children as well as grown-ups, and I always have time for them. I want to help them too. [pause] You should be more like children. You should trust me and love me like they do. [pause] I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Jesus: [to the children] God bless you my children. God keep you safe and help you and give you happiness. Believe in me and in the Heavenly Father.

Narrator: Quietly the disciples listened as Jesus spoke. Now they knew that every person was important to God, especially children. All the way home the mothers smiled and talked about the way the great Teacher loved their children. The children laughed and danced as they thought about Jesus who loved them too.

The End

Supplemental Information

When Jesus was on earth, He taught His disciples and others to love one another. By His actions, He showed that God loves everyone. He made no distinction between rich and poor, handsome and ugly. He did not place one race or nationality above another.

He took time to talk with poor men, with a woman of Samaria who was shunned by others because of her bad actions, with learned men, with sick people, and He took time to talk with children.

Jesus never changes. He still loves everyone – no matter where the person lives, what color skin, or whether rich or poor.

From magazines or other sources, obtain pictures of children from many lands and various races. Mount them on construction paper and attach them to your bulletin board or walls. Let children discuss briefly the differences in appearance, dress, customs, and homes of the children pictured. Let them discover many ways the children are alike. They can appreciate how God loves each child.

Reflection questions

- Many people wanted to see and talk to Jesus. What did He talk to them about?
- What kind of questions do you think the people asked Jesus? If you had lived when Jesus was on earth, what questions would you have asked Him?
- Why do you think Jesus helped people?
- What did the people think when they saw the women and children coming toward Jesus?
- Why do you think the disciples wanted the women and children to go away? Do you think that the disciples were mean?
- How do you think the children felt when the disciples told them to go back home? How do you think you would have felt if you had been there that day?
- Why do you think that Jesus called the mothers and children to come back?
- How do you think the children felt when Jesus welcomed them?
- Why do you think Jesus scolded the disciples?
- In what ways did Jesus say that the disciples should be like the children?
- What do you think Jesus told the children? What do you think the children learned?
- What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus scolded them? What do you think the disciples learned that day?