

2'S / 3'S

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



MAY 29

First & Second Service

LEADER Bible Study

Imagine a celebrity today on his way to a big movie premiere. Surrounded by “handlers,” he hurries from his car into the theater, basking in the admiration of fans but not stopping to give anyone special attention. This may be the picture the disciples had of Jesus.

The disciples saw it as their job to keep the masses away from Jesus—especially those as insignificant as children. After all, Jesus was a very important spiritual leader, and he needed all his strength and emotional energy to fight off the attacks of the Pharisees. He needed to be spending his time with those who were influential and powerful. He certainly shouldn't be wasting his time with small children.

As he did many times in his ministry, Jesus challenged the status quo. He ignored what the disciples considered politically important—appeasing the religious leaders of the day—and spent his time blessing children. The parents had come to Jesus seeking a blessing on their children from this great teacher—perhaps a few words of blessing with his hand on their heads. But he did more than that; he took the children in his arms and hugged them! And then he blessed them. In this act of blessing the children, Jesus showed the common person—even the small child—how important we all are to him .

What are the qualities of children that make them well-suited for God's kingdom? They're humble and trusting, and so naturally prepared to put their faith in Jesus.

Just as children place their trust in their parents, we must be humble and willing to place our trust in God.

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

MARK 10:13-16

BIG IDEA

Children are important to Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR KIDS

We can help little ones see how important they are to Jesus by lovingly caring for their needs and engaging with them. Young children feel contentment when their needs are met in consistent, loving ways and experience God's love through the adults around them.

QUESTION

Do I matter to God even while I am still little?

ANSWER

Yes, you're important to Jesus right now, just as you are!



Come & Play

JESUS LOVES ME! TOSS // *Several bean bags, 4 large heart cut-outs, masking tape*

Place the heart cut outs on the floor in the middle of the rug. Tape them down if needed. Children should stand around the outside of the rug. (Or, you may mark off a masking tape line for the children to stand behind with the hearts 3 or 4 feet away.)

Have a child toss the bean bag onto one of the heart shapes. After the child tosses the bean bag, he or she says "Jesus loves me!" or "Jesus loves (child's name)!"

Say: The Bible says, "I will be glad and rejoice in your love." When we rejoice, it means we're happy. I'm happy to know that Jesus loves me.

ROAD TO JESUS // *Jesus puppet or picture, long blocks (as the balance beam), crawling tube, other safe and desired obstacles in your classroom*

Say: In our Bible story today, some boys, girls, moms and dads hurried down a road to see Jesus. But it wasn't easy to see him. Some things stood in their way! Let's try to get around these obstacles and pretend we are going to see Jesus too! Jesus wanted to see the children because Jesus loves children! Jesus loves and cares for each one of us.

Place the picture/puppet of Jesus at one end of the room or obstacle course. Use the obstacles to make a path leading to the picture/puppet of Jesus. Guide the first child or 2 through the obstacle. Have the rest of the children cheer them on while they wait their turn.

BIBLE STORY—JESUS AND THE CHILDREN (1ST SERVICE)

// *Picture of a traffic light, The Beginner's Bible: "Jesus and the Children" pages 409-412*

Show the traffic light. Ask: What do cars do when there is a red light? (Stop) What do they do when there is a green light? (Go) Listen to our Bible story to find out what happened when Jesus' friends tried to stop children from going to see Jesus.

Text: The children loved to spend time with Jesus.

But the disciples didn't understand. They said, "Stop. Do not bother Jesus. He is just too busy."

Jesus told the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Do not keep them away. You must become like these little children if you want to enter God's kingdom."

Then Jesus blessed the children.

Continued on the next page.



Show & Tell

After you read the story say: The children knew that Jesus loved them. Jesus showed that He loved the children in the Bible story. He was glad to see them! Jesus loves and cares for each of you, too!

The Bible says "God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son." John 3:16 a

PRAY: Say: Today we are all going to give ourselves a big hug while we pray. Everyone wrap your arms around yourself like I am doing. Give yourself a hug,. Help the children, if needed, then pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for Your love. Thank You for the friends and family You gave us. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

If you know of any special travels, illnesses, or events, pray for those children as well.

BIBLE STORY-CHILDREN COME TO JESUS (2ND SERVICE) // *Picture of traffic light, The Rhyme Bible Storybook: "Children Come to Jesus" pages 208-217*

Show the traffic light. Ask: What do cars do when there is a red light? What do they do when there is a green light? Listen to our Bible story to find out what happened when Jesus' friends tried to stop children from going to see Jesus.

Read the story from *The Rhyme Bible Storybook*. Be sure to point out the rhymes. Read it a second time and see if the children can fill in the rhyme at the end of each page.

Text: All day long the people come. Jesus greets them one by one.

Short ones, tall ones, big ones, small ones. Happy ones, grumpy ones, thin ones, plump ones.

Children come and say, "Hooray!" But Jesus' friends say "Go away!"

Jesus tells them, "Come to Me. You can sit upon My knee!"

Jesus hugs them. Hear Him pray: "Bless each child who came today!"

PRAY: Say: Today we are all going to give ourselves a big hug while we pray. Everyone wrap your arms around yourself like I am doing. Give yourself a hug,. Help the children, if needed, then pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank You for giving us friends and family to care for us. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

If you know of any special travels, illnesses, or events pray for those children as well.



Color & Make

SINGING FOR EVERYONE: Don't forget to use lots of hand motions and sit in front of them so they can follow your actions and words. Here are some song suggestions:

How Much I Love Him (USB, Praise and Worship)

Jesus Loves Me (USB, Praise and Worship)

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Love One Another (USB, Praise and Worship)

MEMORIAL DAY CRAFT (1ST SERVICE) // *White star, glue sticks, small torn pieces of red and blue construction paper*

Say: It is Memorial Day weekend when we celebrate our country and our freedom so that we can come to church and worship God. Memorial Day is tomorrow, Monday, May 30th.

Often we see lots of American flags during this weekend. Do you know the three colors on our flag? Pause for responses. Yes, red, white and blue.

Give each child a star. Place the glue sticks and pieces of red and blue paper on the tables. Show the sample to the kids. Say: **Take the little pieces of paper and glue them to your white star. You may tear the pieces of red and blue paper to make them smaller if you like. Then you will have a star to remember Memorial Day tomorrow.**

Make sure the child's name is written on the back of the star.

MEMORIAL DAY CRAFT (2ND SERVICE) // *White paper with a circle for a flower with stem and leaves, glue sticks, small torn pieces of red construction paper*

Say: It is Memorial Day weekend when we celebrate our country and our freedom so that we can come to church and worship God. Memorial Day is tomorrow, Monday, May 30th.

Often we see people wear the red poppy flower on Memorial Day to remember our freedom.

Give each child a paper with the circle flower, stem and leaves. Place the glue sticks and pieces of red paper on the tables. Show the sample to the kids. Say: **Take the little pieces of red paper and glue them to your circle to make the poppy flower. You may tear the pieces of red paper to make them smaller if you like. Then you will have a red poppy flower to remember Memorial Day tomorrow.**

Make sure the child's name is written on the back of the picture.