

Jesus: Again, speak forcefully Jesus' words from 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." (Embrace the children.)

Narrator: Read loudly Mark 10:16. Then, thank everyone who helped with the drama.

If the children present this drama during the worship time, let the children ask the adults the same question as asked about Mark 10:13-16, above, or other questions that they prepare. Let them also repeat the poem and the memory verse for the adults,

Poem. Have four children each recite a verse from Psalm 127, verses 1,3,4,5

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, **the** watchmen stand guard in vain.

Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children are a reward from him.

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.

Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Let older children write **poems**, songs or short stories about people loving children or about older children helping younger children.

Memory verse: Let the older children memorize Mark 10:13-15. Let the younger children memorize Jesus' words only, in Mark 10:14.

Children and Youth Enjoy Serving Christ Jesus—the Best Model for Children to Follow

Choose activities that fit the age of the children and current needs.

Teacher's Prayer: "Lord, you have always loved the children everywhere. Help us to be as compassionate and merciful with them as you are, and to learn from them."

Children's Prayer: "Dear Jesus, we thank you for loving us children, and for showing people how to treat us with kindness. Help us to serve you and do what you say."

Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:16)

Draw a picture:

- Let the children draw a picture of a happy baby to illustrate that Jesus cares about children.
- Let the older children help the younger ones.

Show the pictures to the parents and explain that Jesus loved the little children.

Find in **Mark 10:13-16** how much Jesus cares about children. Read this or relate it by memory for the children. If possible, have an older child read it or tell the story.

Ask the children:

- Why did people bring their children to Jesus? (Let the children answer.)
- Who told the people to take the little children away?



- How did Jesus feel when he saw the children being sent away?
- What did Jesus say about the children?
- How important is it to welcome children into our worship of Jesus?

Learning Activity: Relive the events of when parents brought children to Jesus.

Children: Pretend that you are Jesus' disciples.

What reasons would you tell the parents to prevent them from bringing their children to Jesus? *Examples:*

- "Jesus is too busy."
- "These children are too young to understand His words."
- "You are showing disrespect to our great teacher."
- Let the children tell about deeds that they think the disciples did.

Children: Now pretend that you are parents. Tell reasons you would say for bringing children to Jesus.

Children: Now pretend you are the children whom Jesus received. What would you say about Jesus?

Dramatize the story of the children coming to Jesus (Mark 10:13-16).

- Prepare to present this brief drama to the adults during the worship time. Arrange this with the worship leader.
- The drama can communicate with more authority if a few men join the children to present it.
- The older children help the younger children prepare.
- Older children or adults play the parts of **Parents, Narrator** and **Jesus**.
- Younger children play the parts of **Disciples** and **Children**.

Parents: Take Children by the hand and walk toward Jesus, who is seated to one side of the room. Say, "Come. Let us see Jesus."

Narrator: Read Mark 10:13.

Disciples (Standing by Jesus): Say angrily what the disciples said in the Learning Activity above. Use your imagination to say what you think the disciples would have said.

Parents: Argue angrily with the disciples, as in the Learning Activity. Use your own words.

Jesus: Speak forcefully Jesus' words from Mark 10:14...

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Disciples: Say such things in your own words as...

"Lord, you are too busy!" "You cannot waste your time with tiny children!"