

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 33

**JESUS LOVES
THE CHILDREN**

MARK 10:13-16

Life of Christ

Jesus Loves the Children

Mark 10:13-16

Younger Verse

“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away.” Mark 10:14

Older Verse

“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them.” Mark 10:14

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus wanted to spend time with children
Understand that Jesus wants to spend time with us
Recognize that we can come to Jesus anytime

Opener

Have you ever seen a famous person’s body guards? They walk with them and protect them from anyone who tries to get too close. Jesus’ disciples tried to be like His body guards, but Jesus didn’t like that! Let’s find out why.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned what Jesus taught His disciples about being great. It was different than what they thought! Jesus told the disciples what it means to be a servant. He said we should think about others before ourselves. That is the way to be great in God’s kingdom.

After Jesus taught about being a servant, He continued teaching His disciples about other things. Then Jesus took His disciples down to the area of Judea and across the Jordan River. Once in this area, Jesus had the chance to teach His followers another lesson.

People soon found out Jesus was in town. This got the people really excited. What do you think they did? Some of the adults went home and got their children. They wanted to give their children a chance to see Jesus and let Him bless them!

But when the parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples stopped them. They were probably trying to protect Jesus from the large crowd. They told the parents to take their children away from Jesus. But when Jesus heard what the disciples were saying, He was not happy with them! He knew that the disciples still did not understand what was important to Him.

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t keep them away.” Then Jesus told His disciples that it was important to believe and trust in Him the way a child would. He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

What does it mean to have the faith of a child? Little children trust their parents and teachers completely. They don’t have any doubts about their parents not being right. This is how God wants us to trust Him—completely. We can come to Him the way a little child runs to their Mom or Dad. And God is always there for us.

We see in this story how much Jesus loved those children that came to see Him. Jesus loves all people, especially children. Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that children can spend time with Him, too. It makes God happy when we want to spend time with Him!

God has given us ways to spend time with Jesus today. We can read about Him in the Bible, we can talk with Him through prayer, and we can learn about Him in Bible Study.

Jesus knew that all people mess up. He knew that people would do bad things called sin. He also knew that our sins keep us from getting to be with Him and see Him in Heaven. Jesus wanted us to have a way to be with Him. Jesus took the punishment for us and died on the cross for our sins. Then three days later He came back to life so that we could have our sins taken away.

If you would like to let Jesus take away your sins and let Him be part of your life, please talk with me before you leave.

Review Questions

1. Why did parents bring their children to Jesus? (So that He could bless them.)
2. What did the disciples say to the parents? (They told the parents to send their children away from Jesus.)
3. What did Jesus say to the disciples when He heard what they said? (“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away.”)

Prayer Time

Thank God that we can be His children. Pray that we will invite Christ into our lives and join God’s family.

Life Application

In Isaiah 55:8-9, God says that His ways are different from ours. Jesus taught His disciples that to be important, we have to be a servant. That is a different way of thinking from how most people see things. And Jesus was just as concerned about the little children as He was about the adults. That is different from the world, too.

We need to make sure that we think like Jesus. To learn how He sees things, we have to stay close to Him by reading the Bible, praying, and going to Bible Study.

Planning for Lesson 34
The Rich Young Man
Mark 10:17-31

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Loves the Children

It is so good to see all of you here. Today our story is about little children just like you! Let's see what happened.

It was a normal day for the children in the village. They would be at home spending time with their family and friends. The children had been playing together when their mother came rushing into the house.

"Hurry children, hurry! Jesus is here!" Mother said.

The children jumped to their feet when they heard this. They had heard other people talk about Jesus. He sounded like a very special and important person.

"I want Jesus to touch you and bless you. He has done many amazing things for the other children that have been sick." She said.

They rushed out the door. They saw many other children with their mothers rushing in the same direction. As they turned the corner they saw Him. Many people were all around Him. They started to make their way up to Jesus.

Suddenly some of the men around Jesus started to turn people away. "Go away, Jesus is too busy to see the children. Go away!" They said.

Jesus looked at those men and said, "Let the little children come to me and DO NOT stop them!" Then as if a door had been opened, all the children made their way up to Jesus. He wrapped His arms around them and prayed for them. It was a very exciting day for the children. They were able to see how much Jesus loved them. They got to see that Jesus wanted to spend time with them.

Jesus loves you boys and girls, too. He loves everyone so much that He died and came back to life so that you could spend forever with Him. He really wants to be able to spend time with us. One way to spend time with Him is to talk to Him. Another is reading the Bible. And another way we are doing right now, going to Bible Study. Let's sing about our story:

Sing, "Jesus loves the little children."

(Another fun song is to the tune of "Are you sleeping?")

**Jesus sat upon a hill
with His friends, with His friends.
All the little children
wanted to see Jesus
So they ran, so they ran.**

**"Stop the children, stop the children."
said the men, said the men.
Jesus said, "I love them,
and I want to bless them.
Let them come. Let them come."**

Hands-on Activities for Jesus Loves the Children

Have kids make a line from youngest to oldest. Talk about how Jesus loves all children. They are so important to Him.

Make a picture frame magnet. Glue craft/popsicle sticks into a square frame. Have kids decorate the frames with markers, stickers, or fun material. Write “I Am God’s Child” at the top of the frame. If possible, bring magnets to attach to the back of the frame. Tell them to put their picture in the frame and place it on their refrigerator. Every time they see it, they can remember that God cares about them!

Make a stop sign with construction paper. Have kids act out parents bringing their children to Jesus. Have the disciples hold up the stop sign. Then Jesus says to let the children come to Him, and gives them a big hug!

Play a form of “Red Light, Green Light” to help the kids understand the story. Bring a green piece of paper (for the green light) and a red piece of paper or a stop sign (for the red light). Explain to the kids that they will tiptoe forward when they see the green sheet and tiptoe backwards when they see the red sheet. Share that the children were going to Jesus (hold up a green light) when Jesus’ friends told them to go away (red light). Jesus saw this and asked them to come (green light). Play several times or take turns in letting kids hold up the sheets of paper.

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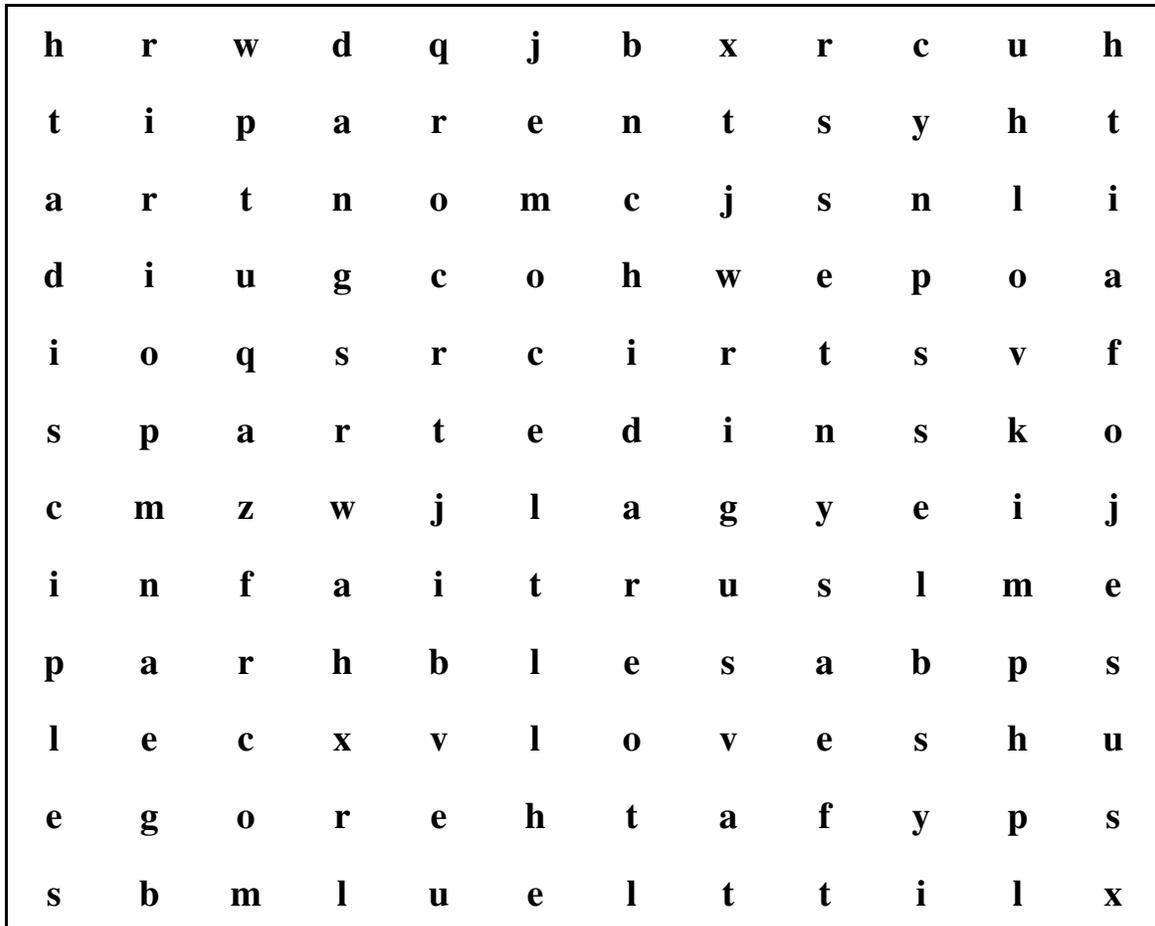
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Word Search

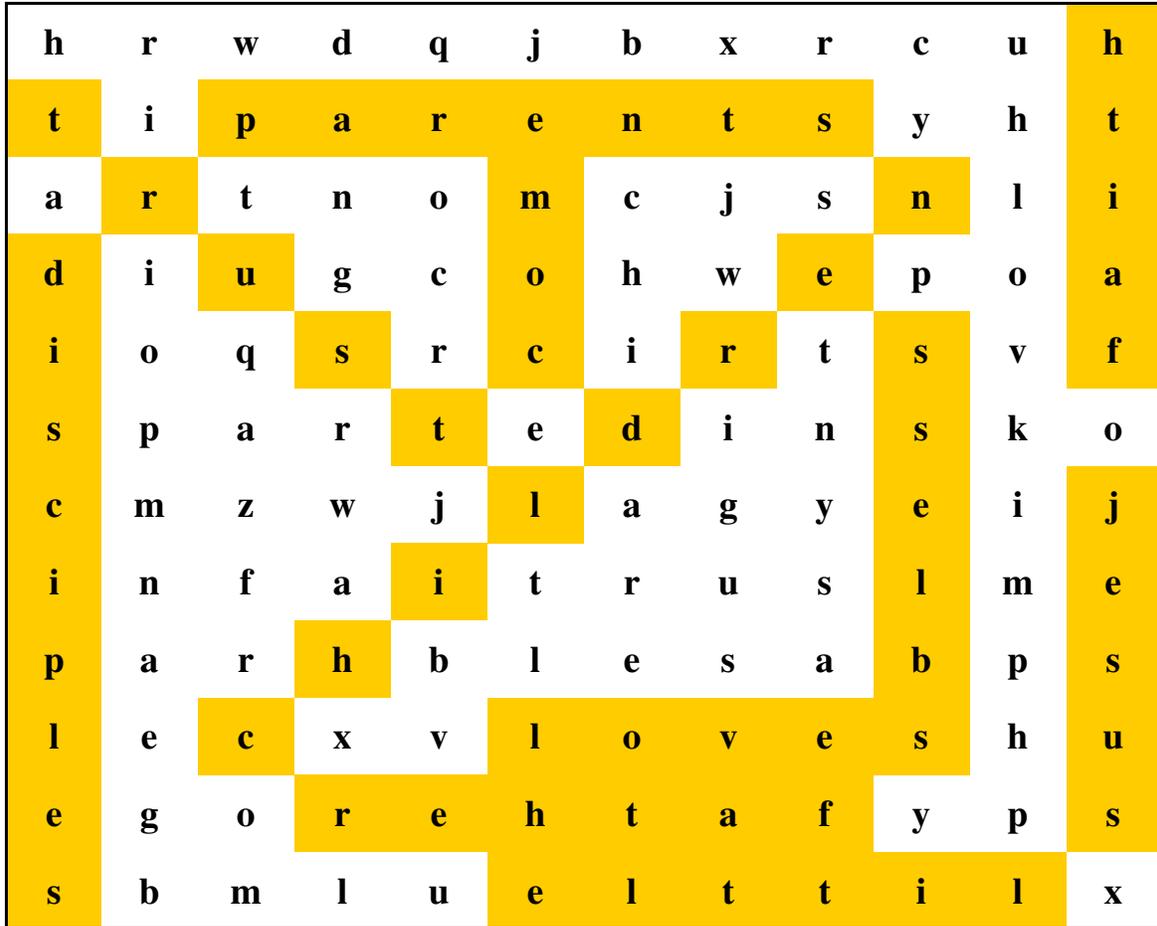
Jesus Loves the Children



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