

## Whom should We Respect?

### Lesson 40

## Matthew 19:13-15

### Memory Verse

**Speak the truth to each other. Zechariah 8:16**

Affirm your pupils and let them know how special they are to you and to God! Tell them how much God loves them!

### Introduction

As Jesus traveled from city to city, He taught people about God's love and kindness. Many times His special helpers traveled with Him.

### Scripture

**Matthew 19:13**

**Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.**

In one town, everyone was listening to Jesus as He told them about God. Some parents saw the crowd and brought their children to see Jesus. They wanted Jesus to bless their children and pray for them.

### Discussion

**Ask: What did the disciples think and do when they saw the parents bringing the children to Jesus?**

Jesus' disciples thought Jesus had more important things to do. They told the parents to take the children away and not to bother Jesus.

**Matthew 19:14**

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

**Ask: What did Jesus do when He saw what was going on?**

When Jesus saw what was going on, He told His disciples to "Let the children come to Me and do NOT stop them!"

**Ask: What did Jesus want to do when He allowed the children to come to Him?**

When Jesus told His disciples to let the children come to Him, He was showing how much He cares for them. He was also showing how much God loves children.

## Discussion

At first, Jesus' disciples did not love or respect the parents or children. They were more concerned for other things. Jesus helped them see that they should love and respect everyone because everyone is important to God. They learned a big lesson that day about caring for all people.

### **Ask: What does God want us to do?**

God wants us to present our children to Him. Our desire should be that our children receive God's blessing.

There are parents who do not know what to do with children who are going down a bad road. God wants us to take that to Him. God wants us to ask for His blessing.

### **Ask: Is it ever too late to ask God to bless someone?**

There is never a moment when it is too late to bring our children to God to ask for His blessing.

Mary and Martha were seeking God's blessing when Lazarus got sick. Lazarus died but Jesus resurrected him. The centurion came seeking God's blessing for his sick servant. God healed the servant the moment Jesus spoke the Word and the centurion believed.

### **Matthew 19:15**

**When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.**

### **Ask: What did the children do?**

The children ran to Jesus. Jesus took them in His arms.

### **Ask: What does God want us to do?**

God wants us to be willing to run to Him. If we are happy, God wants us to go to Him. If we are sad, God wants us to go to Him. If we are in a crisis situation, God wants us to go to Him. If we have sinned, God wants us to go to Him. What our situation or circumstance, God wants us to go to Him.

God hears the prayers of parents who intercede for their children. God sees the desire of the heart of those parents who want their children to seek and follow God. When we present our children before the Lord, He blesses them.

When they reach an age and they are able to choose to follow God they can also seek God's blessing. As parents we can always ask for God's blessing over our children.

### **Acts 10:34**

**Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism."**

The Jewish culture was a culture where women and children did not share the same importance as the men. The Jewish religious leaders had a culture where the sick and those who were not Jews were treated as people of lesser value.

In today's world, some people are given more importance because they are movie stars, or musicians, or because they are wealthy, or because they have a high position, or because of other reasons.

### Application

#### **Ask: Does God play favorites?**

The Bible teaches us that God does not show favoritism. (Acts 10:34) Jesus not only blessed the children and taught the disciples. Jesus showed God's love by speaking truth to the religious leaders, by correcting the disciples, by speaking to the Samaritan woman, by touching the lepers and by stopping to hear the request of the blind men along the side of the road.

God loves all people. John 3:16 tells us that God showed His love for the world by sending Jesus to earth. God knew that when Jesus was on earth, angry men would kill Him, but God had a plan. It was a plan to show even more love to people. Jesus took our punishment for the wrong things we do when He died on a cross. Three days after Jesus died, God made Him alive again! He wasn't dead—He was alive!

#### **Ask: What can we learn from today's lesson?**

1. Jesus told the disciples not to forbid the children to come to Him.
2. God wants us to seek His blessing for our children.
3. There is never a moment when it is too late to seek God's blessing.
4. God wants us to go to Him whatever our circumstance may be.
5. God does not show favoritism.
6. God loves us and sent his Son to die on the cross for our sins because He wants us to know Him.

#### **Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?**

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

#### **Romans 10:9-10**

**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.