

October 15 (Tentative Title: "Let the Children Come to Me")

Verses: Mark 10:13-16

Main Verse: Mark 10:14

Takeaway: When some thought he had better things to do than bless kids, Jesus made it clear that every child is important, and an important picture of kingdom humility.

Getting Started: How do you feel when a special adult (parent, grandparent, teacher, pastor) makes time for you?

Read: Mark 10:13-16

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What is a rebuke? Why did the disciples rebuke the people?
- What does it mean to be indignant?
- Why does Jesus say He was upset with the disciples for trying to send the children away?
- How did Jesus show his care and concern for these children?

Elementary:

- What is a rebuke? Why did the disciples rebuke the people?
- What does it mean to be indignant?
- Why does Jesus say He was upset with the disciples for trying to send the children away? What does He mean by "for to such belongs the kingdom of God?"
- How did Jesus show his care and concern for these children?
- What does Jesus' response here teach us about how we should respond to others, including children?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- The disciples thought the children were a distraction and tried to send them away.
- Jesus corrects them, showing them that children are as important as adults, and equally worthy of love.
- He went on to demonstrate that love by embracing every child and blessing each one.
- We all need to come to God with childlike trust and love (with our whole hearts).

Elementary:

- The disciples thought the children were a distraction and tried to send them away.
- Jesus corrects them, showing them that children are as important as adults, and equally worthy of love.
- He went on to demonstrate that love by embracing every child and blessing each one.
- We all need to come to God with childlike trust and love (with our whole hearts).
- We only become part of the kingdom of God by believing in Jesus, and surrendering our hearts to God's loving leadership.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God and thank Him that every person, including children are important to Him. Thank Him that He loves you and cares for you. Ask Him to help you love Him with your whole heart and to help you love and care for others the way He does for you.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking Him for His great love for all people, including children. Thank Him for His love and care for you. Think about your own heart. Ask Him to help you love Him with your whole heart, and to help you love and care for others the way He does for you. Do you come to God with your whole heart? With childlike humility (cf. Matthew 18:4)? You might want to talk to Him in this way: Admit you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. Believe that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, and forever with God. With your whole heart and being, commit yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. If you pray this, or have questions about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.