

## Let the Little Children Come to Me

Teacher Pep Talk: We wonder if God will accept us; if we can be smart enough, or good enough, or brave enough to impress Him somehow. But none of that makes any difference to God. God loves us. And the Kingdom of God is offered to each of us. The question is whether we will accept it or not.

If we are to receive it, Jesus tells us that we must do so like a little child. Little children receive things humbly and in faith from the people who love them. They do not try to earn or deserve the thing offered. They simply receive it. Jesus holds up these little children as an example to us. God the Father offers us the Kingdom of God (*which is a very good thing.*) The question is, “Will we receive it?”

You will need: Measuring stick or measuring tape to measure the children  
Copies of the activity sheets, allow one heart & one arrow per child  
Scissors and colors  
A large sheet of paper to tape on the wall (also painter’s tape)

Major Points: God loves us (no matter how big we are.)  
People brought their children to Jesus, so He could bless them.  
Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.”  
Jesus said, “The kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”  
We must receive the kingdom of God like a little child.

Scripture Ref. Mark 10:13-16 *People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world...*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14 Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me...”

Lesson: **God loves us (no matter how big we are.)**

- How old are you? (*Ask each child, wait for them to answer.*)
- How old will you be on your next birthday? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Let me ask you this: Does God love you? (*Yes!*)

- Will He love you when you have your next birthday? (Yes!)
- How about the birthday after that? (Yes!)
- How about your last birthday; did God love you then? (Yes!)
- How about the birthday before that? (Yes!)
- VERY GOOD! That's right! God loves you this birthday and next. God loves you this birthday and last birthday. God loves you, no matter how many birthdays you have had!
- God loves you no matter how big or little you are! God loves you no matter how young or old you are!

**People brought their children to Jesus, so He could bless them.**

- A long time ago, when Jesus was here on the earth, crowds of people would follow Him around to hear Him preach, to be healed of their illnesses, and to talk to Him.
- Some of the people brought their children to Jesus so that He could touch them and bless them. (*Consider demonstrating, by placing your hand on a child's head and saying "God bless you."*)
- The people thought this was very important.
- But the disciples tried to stop them from doing this. Perhaps they thought Jesus was too busy, or too important, to do this kind of thing for little children.
- (*Sometimes adults make the mistake of not wanting to take time for little children. Have you ever noticed that?*)

**Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."**

- But when Jesus saw what the disciples were doing, He was indignant. (*What does "indignant" mean? It means he was upset!*) Jesus knew it was wrong and He didn't like it!
- Jesus said to His disciples: "Let the little children come to me..."
- Let's say that together: "*Let the little children come to me.*" (*Repeat once or twice together.*)
- That's right. Jesus said: "*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them...*" What does "hinder" mean? It means to stop or to keep from doing something. Jesus said something like, "Hey! Don't do that! Don't stop them from coming to me!"
- Jesus wanted to allow the children and their parents to come to Him. Jesus wasn't too busy, or too important, to take time for them. In fact, they were important to Jesus!

**Jesus said, "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these."**

- Jesus knew that the children were very important. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, (*Pause and let children repeat*) and do not hinder them, (*Pause and let children repeat*) for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

- Wow! The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these! That sounds really important!
- Jesus was saying that children are an example to the rest of us about who can enter the Kingdom of God.
- Watch, it gets better.

**We must receive the kingdom of God like a little child.**

- Jesus said “Let the little children come to me, *(Repeat together)* and do not hinder them, *(Repeat together)* for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” *(Repeat together.)*
- And then He said: “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”
- Wow! Now that’s HUGE! Not only is Jesus saying that children are important, but He is showing them as an example to everyone else about how they must receive the kingdom of God!
- Do you have a little brother or little sister? *(Wait for answers.)* Do you ever hand them something? *(Yes, like what? Do you give them good things? Food, toys, etc.)* How do little children receive things? *(They just take them!)*
- Little children don’t ask a lot of questions. They don’t try and earn what you are giving them. They accept what you give them in faith. They have faith in you (or mom or dad) that you are going to give them something good for them.
- God the Father loves us and wants to give us His Kingdom, which is very, very good. Jesus tells us that we must receive it like a little child would receive something, in faith.

Let’s pray and thank God for the gift of His Kingdom. And let’s thank Him that we may come to Him in faith.

Prayer: Dear God,  
Thank you that you love us!  
Thank you that you offer us the gift of your Kingdom!  
Thank you that we may come to you in faith.  
Amen

Suggested Activities: *(Choose a few activities for your class!)*

**How Tall are You?** *(A fun activity for finding everyone’s height.)*

**Before Class:** Provide a safe way of measuring everyone and marking the results somehow on a wall in your room. One easy way is to provide a large piece of white wrapping paper (or butcher paper) taped to the wall with painter’s tape.

**During Class:** Measure each child by having them stand with their back to the wall and making a mark on the paper at the top of their head. Record each child’s name and height. At the top of the paper write the words “On     *(Today’s Date)*    , we were this tall!” Display the paper in class.

**Heart and Arrow Cut-out** *(A craft with crayons and scissors)*

**Before Class:** Provide a copy of the Heart page, along with one arrow from the Arrow page, for each child. Provide scissors and colors. Bring a measuring stick or measuring tape to class with which to measure the children.

**During Class:** Measure each child and record the heights. Write each child's name and height on an Arrow from the Activity Sheets. Allow the children to color the heart and the arrow. Cut out the heart, as well as the arrow. Snip along the dotted lines in the heart making two slits. Put the arrow through the slits, allowing the child's name to show on the back of the project. Take the projects home to display there.

**Count Your Blessings** – *(Discussion, Song and Finger Game)*

Talk to the class about blessings. Say something like: "In the story, Jesus blessed the children who were brought to Him. God gives us MANY blessings each day! If we were to try and count them all we would get tired just counting!" Talk about some of God's blessings. For example: sun, rain, life... All good things come from God!

**Bible References to help with your Discussion:**

James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

Matthew 5:45b *He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

**Song and Finger Game:** *(Sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or "Brother John")*

**Sing these words:**

Count your blessings  
*(Count your blessings)*

One, Two, Three  
*(One, Two, Three)*

God gives many blessings  
*(God gives many blessings)*

To you and me  
*(To you and me)*

**Do these actions:**

*Hold up fingers on both hands and wave hands back and forth*

*Count on fingers 1, 2, 3...*

*Open and close fingers repeatedly as if counting many numbers!*

*Point to others and then to self*

**Bible Verse Memorization** – *(For fun and some much needed physical activity time)*

*"Let the little children come to me..."*

Stand on one side of the room with the children on the other side. You say, "Let the little children..." and they respond "...come to me!" and then they all run across the room towards you. Be prepared to get trampled on a little...but they will learn the verse... ☺



