



25th October 2020

Jesus Wanted Children to be His Friends

Reference: Matthew 19:13-15

Main Point: Jesus isn't just for grownups. Jesus wants children to be his friends too!

Activities to do together:

- Using a piece of blank paper talk with your child about friends - their friends and your friends. As you talk, draw pictures of your friends on the paper and write a name next to the drawing of each friend. Talk about what it means to be someone's friend (eg. You spend time with them, talk with them, be kind to them...) Talk about how Jesus wants us to be friends with him and what it means to be Jesus' friends.
- Dress ups/doll play- Set up an imaginary play area with dress ups etc for children to role play Mums and Dads, children and babies. As they play ask them - Does Jesus want Mums and Dads to know about him and be his friends? What about children and babies? Does Jesus want them to know about him and be his friends too?
- Cut out a love heart from a piece of paper or draw a love heart on a piece of paper and decorate together. As your children colour, talk to them about how Jesus loves them and always has time for them. You can talk about how we can pray to God anytime, anywhere and he will listen. (You may want to make some extra love hearts for your child to decorate during sermon time.)

Bible: Retell the account of The Little Children and Jesus, found in Matthew 19:13-15 or, read to your child, the story of "Jesus and the Children" from a children's bible such as "The Beginners Bible".

Discussion:

1. **Who were people bringing to see Jesus?** (*Little children, like you.*)
2. **Why did they bring the children to see Jesus?** (*They knew Jesus was someone very special, the mighty Son of God and they wanted him to lay hands on them and pray for them.*)
3. **Did the disciples like people bringing the children to see Jesus?** (*No, they didn't.*)
4. **Why do you think they didn't like people bringing children to meet Jesus?** (*The disciples may have thought that children were not as important as grown ups and that Jesus was too busy or too important to spend time with children.*)
5. **What did Jesus think about this?** (*He did not think like his disciples. He wanted the children to come to him and he welcomed them warmly.*)
6. **What did Jesus say?** (*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." v.14*)
Jesus isn't just for grown-ups like mums and dads! Jesus says that He came to save all people from the sin problem - Old people, young people, children - everyone! Jesus loves and cares for



you. He wants all children like you to come to him and to be his friends, to be saved from the sin problem and to love him with all of your heart.)

Pray together: Dear God, thank you that Jesus loves and welcomes little children like me. Thank you that Jesus saves all types of people (young and old) from the sin problem so that we can all be His friends.

Amen.

Memory verse: 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.'- John 14:6

Ideas for sermon time:

- Watch this week's video for under 5's.
- Print out and colour this [colouring page](#)
- Decorate the extra love hearts with stickers, stamps, or coloured paper. Your children can give these to friends or family, and tell them that Jesus wants to be their friend too!