



Jesus and the Children

Lesson Aim: To know children are important to Jesus and He wants them to come to Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: Jesus as Lord

THE WORD

Bible Story: Mark 10:13-16

What He has done: Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37a

Unit 3: Jesus as Lord			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
11	Jesus and the Children, Mark 10:13-16	Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him.	To know children are important to Jesus and He wants them to come to Him.
12	Jesus Cares for Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, John 11:3-4, 21-23, 32-44	Jesus wept when He saw their sorrow.	To see when we are sad, Jesus is sad for us.
13	Riding into Jerusalem, Mark 11:1-10	Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.	To praise Jesus as they did when He rode into Jerusalem.
14	The Miracle of Easter, Matthew 28:1-7	God raised Lord Jesus to life after He died for us.	To learn God raised Jesus to life and Jesus lives forever.
15	Appearing on the Shore, John 21:1-14	Jesus appeared on the shore to His followers.	To show Jesus proved He was alive after God raised Him to life.
16	Jesus Goes Up to Heaven, Luke 24:50-53	Jesus blessed His disciples and was lifted up to heaven.	To know where Jesus is.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Matthew 18:1-6. Please join us in praying, "Dear Lord Jesus, help us understand what it means to come to You as the Lord God Almighty. To You be the praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

It does not take grand gestures to show Jesus' love to children. It is the small things you do that let them know you love them. Be extravagant with your facial expressions and pleasant in your tone of voice. Take the time to listen to what they have to say. Give praise often. The smallest efforts will help the children in your care to feel loved, treasured, and ready to learn more about God's love.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME		Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of children
		Coloring Center: Jesus and the Children	Coloring pages of Jesus and the children, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Wherever You Go	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Puppet Center: Jesus Loves You	3-4 people puppets
		Bible Center: The Bible Tells Me So	Children's Bible
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Action Bible Songs by Cedarhurst Kids; Little Praise Party- My Best Friend by Yancy & Friends; The ABCs of Praise by Mary Rice-Hopkins	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide" "I Will Remember" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 11
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Mark 10:13-16	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 10:16 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, mirror
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Hugs from Jesus	Picture of Jesus and 2-inch paper heart (available at ResourceWell.org) printed and cut out from sturdy paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: cotton balls
		Game: Jesus Hugs	Soft items (toy stuffed animals, dolls, etc.)
		Game: Come to Jesus	Rope
		Snack: Hugs and Blessings	Any heart-shaped snack or snack with heart decorations
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 11
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Mark 10:13-16	None
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Circle	None
	Up to 10	Game: I See Someone Jesus Loves	Binoculars (toy or real) or spy glass (paper rolled into a tube)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Jesus and children

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as Lord

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of children. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of children help you remember Jesus wants boys and girls just like you to come to Him.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jesus and the children, crayons

DO

Children color while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

I'm glad you're here today. Who do you see in the picture? (Jesus, children.) **Who does Jesus love?** (Children respond.) **Does Jesus love everyone?** (Yes, Jesus loves everyone.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: WHEREVER YOU GO

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children make things that remind them of places they go with the play-dough while learning Jesus loves them wherever they go.

TALK ABOUT

Where do you like to go with your family? (Children respond.) **What could you make with the play-dough that would remind you of that place?** (Responses might include a ball for the playground, a sheep for the farm, or a purse for the store.) **Jesus loves us wherever we go.**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

PUPPET CENTER: JESUS LOVES YOU

SUPPLIES

3-4 people puppets

DO

Use one of the puppets to talk to children and to tell them **"Jesus loves you, child's name."** Let interested children take turns using the puppets and telling others Jesus loves them.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, Jesus tells His friends to let the children come to Him. Jesus wants everyone to come to Him because He loves all of us. Can you use one of the puppets to tell someone Jesus loves them?

BIBLE CENTER: THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

SUPPLIES

Children's Bible

DO

Look through a children's Bible with the children.

TALK ABOUT

What is this book? (The Bible.) The Bible is God's words to us. We know everything in the Bible is true. Can you find a picture of Jesus? Look through some of the stories with Jesus. Can you find a picture of Jesus with children? Help the children find a page of Jesus with children. The Bible tells us Jesus wants every child to come to Him. Jesus loves everyone.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as Lord

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time! Who are we worshipping in Praise Time? (Jesus.) **Jesus loves when we come together to praise Him. Before we sing, let's praise Him through prayer. Dear Jesus, we praise You as Lord. May everything we do and say be for You. Amen.**



Who does Jesus love? (Children respond.) **Does Jesus love name each child? Yes, Jesus loves all the children of the world.** Optional: March around the room while singing this song.

In our story today, we will hear how the people brought their little children to Jesus. Someone brought you here today to help you come close to Jesus. Even though we cannot see or touch Jesus right now, there are many ways we can come close to Him. We can pray and sing and give our offerings. As we give our offerings to our church, let's remember we can come to Jesus today because He is always with us. Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save" while collecting the offering.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello know what Jesus said about the little children. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 3, Lesson 11.



Jesus loves you and all little children. He wants you to love Him with all your heart (your feelings), and with all your soul (the part of you that will live forever), and with all your mind (your thoughts). Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."



"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Jesus said that is the most important rule for us to follow. It's also our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together with the motions. Practice a few times with the sign language.

**"Love
the Lord your God**

(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**with all your heart."
Matthew 22:37a**

The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Jesus said let the children come to Him

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Mark 10:16, picture of the Bible story, mirror

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Show children the mirror. **Who can tell me what this is?** (A mirror.) **I want each of you to look in the mirror and tell me what you see.** Encourage the children to say their names when they look in the mirror.

When you looked in the mirror, you saw yourself. Do you know what I see when I look at you? (Children respond.) **I see a child who Jesus loves very much. Does Jesus love babies?** (Yes.) **Does Jesus love children?** (Yes.) **Does Jesus love adults?** (Yes.) **Jesus loves people of all ages, doesn't He?** (Yes.) **In our story today, some of Jesus' friends thought Jesus was too busy to spend time with children. Let's find out what happened.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mark 10:16.



WATCH THE WORD: MARK 10:13-16

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **People brought their children to Jesus,**
- **Hoping He'd touch each one.**
- **His followers told the parents, "No."**
- **But Jesus said, "Let them come!"**

- **"Let the little children come to Me;**
- **Do not make their way hard.**
- **God's kingdom belongs to such as these."**
- **Then He took them in His arms.**

- **He put His hands on the children**
- **And blessed each little child.**
- **"To enter the kingdom of God," He said,**
- **"Believe and have faith like a child."**

Who wanted the children to come to Him? (Jesus.) **The more you spend time with Jesus, the more you'll see how much He loves you!**



You can come to Jesus

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: HUGS FROM JESUS

Purpose: To know children can always come to Jesus.

Supplies: Picture of Jesus and 2-inch paper heart (available at ResourceWell.org) printed and cut out from sturdy paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: cotton balls

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Optional: Attach cotton balls to the clouds. Cut out the picture of Jesus so children can fold His arms forward and around the heart. Tell the children, **"You can move Jesus' arms forward to show how He hugs you."**

Directions:

1. Color the picture of Jesus.
2. Draw a picture of yourself on the heart shape.
3. Glue the heart shape on Jesus' body. **When you see this picture of Jesus, you can remember Jesus wants us all to come to Him. He loves you very much.**

Craft Discussion:

- **Who came to see Jesus?** (The little children.)
- **Did Jesus want the children to come to Him?** (Yes.)
- **Jesus took the children into His arms and blessed them. You can come to Jesus, too.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: JESUS HUGS

Purpose: Children will embrace a soft item as Jesus embraced the children.

Supplies: Soft items (toy stuffed animals, dolls, etc.)

Jesus took the children into His arms. What would it be like to be hugged by Jesus? (Children respond.) **Can you show me the way you think Jesus would give a hug?**

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Give a soft item (toy stuffed animal or doll) to one child to hug.
3. Have the children pass the soft item around the circle, each hugging it like they imagine Jesus would hug them.
4. Add another soft item for the children to hug and pass.
5. Continue adding items to hug and pass.

Jesus wants all children to come to Him. If you had been there that day, Jesus would have hugged and blessed you, too!

GAME: COME TO JESUS

Purpose: To see no one can keep them from Jesus.

Supplies: Rope

Jesus' followers did not plan to let the children see Jesus. But Jesus told His followers to let the children come to Him. Pretend Jesus' followers are holding this rope so you cannot come to Jesus. But Jesus won't let anyone keep you from seeing Him! Crawl under the rope; then tell the other children to come to Jesus, too!

Directions:

1. Have a helper or another child help you hold the rope above the ground, leaving just enough room for a child to crawl underneath.
2. Help the children form a line on one side of the rope.
3. One at a time, each child crawls under the rope, stands up, turns to face the other children, and says, **"Come to Jesus."** You may choose to include the sign language below or other motions.

"Come"	Point both index fingers out and move hands toward self.
"(to) Jesus."	The middle finger of one hand touches the middle of the palm of the other hand, then repeat the motion switching hands. This action indicates the wounds in Jesus' hands after He was nailed to the cross.

4. Continue until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: HUGS AND BLESSINGS

Purpose: Teacher prays for Jesus to bless each child as He did in Mark 10:16.

Snack Suggestion: Any heart-shaped snack or snack with heart decorations

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who did the children want to see?** (Jesus.) **Jesus' followers tried to stop the children from seeing Jesus. How do you think the children felt?** (Sad.)
 - **Who did Jesus want to come to Him?** (The children.) **Jesus hugged and blessed the children. How do you think the children felt then?** (Happy.)
 - **All children are special to Jesus. He wants to bless every child. I will give each one of you a special blessing from Jesus. Close your eyes and imagine Jesus is hugging you.** Stand or kneel in front of each child, place your hands gently on his/her head, and pray, **"Jesus, please bless this child. Amen."**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the Lord your God	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
with all your heart."	The middle (touch) finger taps the chest over the heart.
Matthew 22:37a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MARK 10:13-16

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **People brought their children to Jesus,** (Rock imaginary baby in arms.)
- **Hoping He'd touch each one.** (Lift up imaginary baby.)
- **His followers told the parents, "No."** (Shake head no.)
- **But Jesus said, "Let them come!"** (Beckoning motion.)
- **"Let the little children come to Me;** (Point to self.)
- **Do not make their way hard.** (Shake head no.)
- **God's kingdom belongs to such as these."** (Point to heaven.)
- **Then He took them in His arms.** (Hug self.)
- **He put His hands on the children** (Pretend to pat a smaller child's head.)
- **And blessed each little child.** (Fold hands in prayer.)
- **"To enter the kingdom of God," He said,** (Point to heaven.)
- **"Believe and have faith like a child."** (Place hands on heart.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37a

GAME: MEMORY VERSE CIRCLE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

You are important to Jesus and He loves you very much. He wants you to love Him with all your heart (your feelings), **and with all your soul** (the part of you that will live forever), **and with all your mind** (your thoughts).

Directions:

1. Stand in a circle with the children and hold hands.
2. Walk in a circle as you say the verse together, taking one step with each word.
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."
3. Play again, but walk in the opposite direction.
4. Play several times, doing different motions each time. Motions may include: jumping in place, clapping, hopping, etc.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: I SEE SOMEONE JESUS LOVES

Purpose: To see Jesus loves everyone.

Supplies: Binoculars (toy or real) or spy glass (paper rolled into a tube)

You are important to Jesus; He loves each and every one of you. I'm going to use my binoculars (or spy glass) to see who Jesus loves. Let's see if you can guess who I see.

Directions:

1. Scan the room with the binoculars. In your mind, choose one of the children without revealing who you have chosen to the children.
2. Say, **"I spy with my little eye someone Jesus loves. It's a girl wearing a pink dress. Do you know who it is?** Allow the children guess until they guess correctly. You may choose to give a second hint, if needed.
3. **That's right! Jesus loves child's name.**
4. Play several times.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about Jesus and children.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 11: Jesus and the Children

PONDER! Jesus' friends stopped the children from seeing Him (Mark 10:13-16). What did Jesus say? ("Let the little children come to Me.")

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for loving us as Your children. Help us know we are special to You. Amen."

PLAY! Jesus wants to hug and love the people in your family. Can you give each person a hug for Jesus? Then, pray and thank God for them. Together, practice the words and motions to the Bible Memory Verse below.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love	(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
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