



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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Come to Jesus."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of children
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Come to Jesus."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	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 Am with You" "I Will Remember" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love"
		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: Mirror
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Hugs from Jesus	Large paper plate, small paper plate, 2-inch paper heart, sturdy white paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: yarn, paper fasteners
		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
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 11 Color This Story: "Jesus and the Children"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Mark 10:13-16	None
	Up to 10	Game: Heart Hop	Two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape
	Up to 10	Game: Lots of Love Tango	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Jesus and children

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Come to Jesus

THE 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "Come to Jesus."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Come to Jesus."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

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|----------------------|---|
| "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 the same is repeated using the middle finger of the other hand. This action indicates the wounds in Jesus' hands after He was nailed to the cross. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Come to Jesus," Matthew 19:14. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as Lord

THE WORSHIP

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to Jesus as Lord. When Jesus is our Lord, everything we do is for Him. In today's story, we learn Jesus wants little children to come to Him. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, "Come to Jesus." Let's try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: "Come to Jesus." Include sign language.



In the story, 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 to Him. We can thank the Lord Jesus as we give Him our offering to His church. Let's do that now. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.

The people brought their little children to Jesus. When His followers stopped them, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me." We can still come to Jesus today because He is always with us. Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."



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). Jesus said this is the most important rule for us to follow: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." That is our Bible Memory Verse. Let's sing the words of Jesus as we sing our Praise Time song. Sing: "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God."



Jesus said let the children come to Him

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Jesus healed the ten men. Today, we will hear how Jesus told His followers to let the children come to Him. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mark 10:16.

WATCH THE WORD: MARK 10:13-16

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a mirror to reflect the children's faces as children Jesus invites to come to Him. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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.) Who took the children into His arms? (Jesus.) Let's check our answer in the Bible. Read Mark 10:16 from the teacher's Bible.

Jesus wants all children to come to Him. Hold mirror up to each child so each one sees his or her own face in the mirror. **What does Jesus want each child you saw in this mirror to do?** (Come to Jesus.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Come to Jesus."** Include sign language or hand motions.



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: Large paper plate, small paper plate, 2-inch paper heart, sturdy white paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: yarn, paper fasteners

Prepare: Cut (4) 1 1/2-inch x 8 1/2-inch strips of paper. Fold each strip accordion-style. On the large paper plate, print: **“Let the little children come to Me.” Mark 10:14**

Optional: Cut and glue strips of yarn for hair. Attach arms with paper fasteners.

Directions:

1. Draw Jesus' face on the small plate (Jesus' head).
2. Draw a picture of yourself on the heart shape.
3. Glue the heart shape on the large plate (Jesus' body).
4. Attach the small paper plate to the large paper plate.
5. Glue or tape two strips of folded paper to the bottom rim of the large paper plate for legs.
6. Glue or tape a strip of folded paper to each side of the large paper plate for arms.
7. **You can stretch Jesus' arms to show how He hugs you.**

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** (“Come to Jesus.”) **Let's say it now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **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 today's Whisper Verse, "Come to Jesus." Include sign language or motions.
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 snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Come to Jesus."
 - **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."**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Hugs from Jesus" craft. Tell someone you know Jesus loves all children.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Jesus wants all children to come to Him.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus and the Children." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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 and with all your soul
and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

GAME: HEART HOP

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

Supplies: Two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape

Directions:

1. Tape the paper heart shapes in a large circle on the floor.
2. Children stand on every other heart.
3. Say the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse. Have children repeat each word after you.
4. Say the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse again. This time, children turn to their right and hop from one heart to the next heart on each word.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: LOTS OF LOVE TANGO

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"

Do you love Jesus, the Lord? (Children respond.) **Jesus wants you to love Him with every part of your body—from the top of your head to the tips of your toes! Look at everyone around you. They are your neighbors! Wave to your neighbors! God wants you to love everyone around you, too!**

Directions:

1. Help children find partners. Partners stand together.
2. Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song and lead the following motions:

"You shall love the Lord your God,	(Point up to God in heaven.)
With all your heart and with all your soul	(Pat sides of body from head to toes.)
and with all your mind.	
Love your neighbor as yourself—	(Hug partner.)
the best commandments you'll find!"	
Praise Time chorus.	(Hop, clap, or dance to the rhythm of the music.)



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! Read Mark 10:13-16 with your family. Talk about how Jesus' followers tried to keep the children from coming to Jesus. Jesus wanted the children to come to Him. Jesus hugged and blessed the children. Children are very special to Jesus.

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 bless each person in your family. Can you give each person a hug for Jesus? Pray and thank God for loving each person in your family. After you've hugged your family, teach them the words and motions to the Whisper Verse, "Come to Jesus."

Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."