

Welcome Back! You Belong Here!!

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16, Luke 9:46-48

Memory Verse: Mark 10:16 *“Jesus took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”*

Lesson Focus: This is our first weekend open in RMC kids ministry in 6 months! We want to welcome the kids back with energy and excitement and emphasize throughout the lesson that they BELONG here at church. Why? Because Jesus shows many times throughout the gospels that He loves kids and this is HIS house.

Schedule: The essential flow will be the same as we did before COVID, but the large group teaching content is shortened a little so that there is more time for you to get acquainted with your kids afterwards!

Activities and Crafts:

1st & 2nd: Jesus Blesses the Children Craft and Coloring Picture
3rd-5th: Prayer Requests and Teaching Notepads

Classroom Activity: Wipe That Smile Off Your Face

Have everyone sit in a circle on the floor (there will be no tables or chairs) and select a person to start the game (could be the leader).

That person then makes the funniest, weirdest, cheesiest smile at everyone else in the circle, trying to make them laugh. However, they must be silent!

For every person in the group who laughs at their smile, they receive one point. Consider putting names on the board of everyone who participates and keeping score! We have prizes that we can give to the winners.

After they have smiled at everyone in the group, they “wipe” the smile off their face with their hand and “pass” the smile onto the next person who wants to be “it” (some kids might not want to be “it” which is fine).

Afterwards, have some discussion about smiling (Q: what makes you smile)? Then to wrap this up, emphasize that **YOU ARE SMILING BECAUSE YOU ARE SO EXCITED TO BE BACK WITH THE KIDS HERE AT RMC!!!**

Bible Study:

Teachers: We are going to look at three different portions of Scripture where Jesus shows that children BELONG with Him. During worship, I will open up and read through **Matthew 21:14-16** to introduce this idea. *

After worship we will dismiss the 1st & 2nd graders as usual.

Mark 10:13: This is one of the most precious accounts in all of the Scriptures!

Q: Who did it say that they were bringing to Jesus? A: Little children just like you, maybe even younger!

It says that Jesus's disciples rebuked or told them to stop and go away (SHOO!).

Q: Did Jesus's disciples think that children BELONGED with Jesus? A: NO!

Q: Why do you think the disciples did this? *

A: Probably because they didn't think Jesus had any time for "just children".

Q: How do you think Jesus is going to respond to this? Let's find out!

Mark 10:14: It says that Jesus was GREATLY displeased! He instead rebukes the disciples and says to them, "*Don't you dare prevent them from coming to me!*" *

Teachers: Consider acting out what this might have looked like. You can be Jesus and you can pretend to be doing something "very important". Then have another leader be the "grumpy" disciple and have two kids approach you asking for your attention. Have the other leader rebuke the two kids and then you will swoop in and receive the two children, rebuking the disciple.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. This is a bit of a mysterious statement. To better understand it, we need to read the next verse.

Mark 10:15: No one will enter heaven except as a little child!

Q: Does that mean that I'm in trouble because I'm not a child anymore? NO!

Jesus would have us boring adults learn something from you children: you boys and girls are faith EXPERTS! You trust and believe in the Bible with a simplicity that adults struggle with. *

It is the simple child-like faith in God that you so easily possess that Jesus wants all people to have! *

Mark 10:16: I can just imagine the disciples' jaws dropping to the ground right now as Jesus stopped whatever He was doing to receive these kids into His arms!

Remember Who Jesus is! He is the Creator of the universe. He is the all-powerful God in Whom all things hold together (**Colossians 1:17**). This God is BIG and POWERFUL. And yet this same all-powerful God made Himself small and gentle to be with us and to save us.

This God showed us that YOU BELONG here as He welcomed kids into his arms and blessed them!

Teachers: At this point we will transition into the Luke's gospel.

So we have twice now seen Jesus correcting adults who thought that children didn't BELONG with Him. Let's now look at one more lesson that Jesus gave His followers.

Luke 9:46: Jesus's followers are thinking about their own greatness and they are even arguing about who among them would be the greatest!

Q: When you think of greatness, what comes to mind? Power and strength, right? *

Luke 9:47: Wait! Q: Who did Jesus take from the crowd to teach them about real power and strength in God's kingdom? A: A child, maybe someone just like you!

Luke 9:48: Jesus says if you want to be great in His kingdom, make yourself small...just like a child. You know why? Because when you get out of the way, you have room to focus on God and others!

Key Point: But Jesus said one more important thing. He said He wants His disciples to show kids that they BELONG, that they matter.

Have you noticed the T-shirts that we are all wearing? These T-shirts have a logo on the back which describes what we want Kids church at RMC to be all about:

- 1) Showing you Jesus
- 2) Knowing you just like Jesus knew kids

Q: What have we seen in three different gospels now? Kids matter to God!

Every time you come to RMC we want to show you and remind you that Jesus loves you and that you BELONG here and are welcome here. Your leaders are excited to get to know you and teach you about Jesus this new year!

Closing Activity: Please take some time after the lesson to get to know the kids. 3rd-5th grade classrooms will be supplied with prayer requests sheets that kids can fill out and give to you. Take them home and commit to praying for your kids throughout the week!

Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rmcalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

Lesson Theme: “You BELONG Here!”

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48

Memory Verse: Mark 10:16 *“Jesus took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”*

Teachers/Parents: We are SO EXCITED to have the kids back at church and really want them to join us in that excitement. Ultimately we want your kids to be EXCITED about Jesus as they see that He carved out space of His busy schedule to be with kids. Jesus made kids feel like they BELONG. How does it feel to BELONG to something and what are some things that you BELONG to? Discuss!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) **Read Mark 10:13.** What did it say the disciples did when they brought children to Jesus? Why do you think they did this?
- 2) **Read Mark 10:14.** There are very few times in Scripture where Jesus is described as being “greatly displeased”. What was He so greatly displeased about here and how does that make you feel as a kid?
- 3) **Read Mark 10:16.** Jesus didn’t just say that He wanted children to come to Him, but He proved it here. Can you think of any time when you said something, but maybe didn’t mean it?
- 4) **Read Luke 9:46.** What were the disciples arguing over? Can you think of a time when you argued with a friend or family member about this same thing? Why do you think we do this?
- 5) **Read Luke 9:47-48.** What do you think it means when Jesus says, “Whoever receives this child in My Name receives Me”?
- 6) At the end of v. 48, Jesus says whoever is least among you all is the greatest in God’s kingdom. Read **Luke 14:11.** What do you think it means to become the least or to humble oneself? Is this easy or hard?
- 7) **Read Psalm 34:11.** Here we have King David welcoming children as well. What is it that David wants kids to know and understand?