

Mark 10:13-16

Let the Little Children Come to Me!

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14: “[Jesus] said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me’”

Lesson Focus: This is our first weekend with the newly promoted kids! Few passages of Scripture remind us of the importance of kids ministry better than this one. We will take a break from Romans and review this precious passage of Scripture that is at the heart of our vision for kids ministry at RMC (and on the back of our T-shirts!). The teaching is shortened so that there is more time for you to spend getting to know your kids.

Activities and Crafts: Jesus Welcoming Kids Coloring page, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion and Prayer Requests for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st and 2nd grade: Handprint Craft for the Classroom

Starter Activities: “Claim Your Kingdom” and “Wipe That Smile Off Your Face”

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship and have them “claim their new kingdom” by writing their names on the fresh white tape that we will have laid down in the Summit room for their new grade. * Afterwards we will dismiss the 1st/2nd grade classes to their rooms. *

In the classroom, consider having everyone sit in a circle on the floor and select a person to be “It” who will start the game (might be a good idea to have one of the leaders start and demonstrate!) 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 is “It”, keeping score, and awarding M&Ms to the winner (see activity below that we provide these for) or anyone who was brave enough to be “It”. After “It” has smiled at everyone in the group and you count the number of kids who laughed, he/she “wipes” the smile off their face with their hand and “passes” 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 why we smile and things that make us smile. * And to wrap this activity up, warmly emphasize that you are smiling BECAUSE YOU ARE SO EXCITED TO MEET AND WELCOME THESE KIDS INTO YOUR CLASS!

Jesus also was Someone who loved to be with kids. In fact, He went out of His way to make sure kids knew they BELONGED with Him. Let’s open our Bibles and see how Jesus treated kids just like you!

Bible Study:

Jesus Christ was very special. He was the Son of God come down to earth as a man to save and rescue people like you and me from sin and evil. He is the God-man, the Superhero of superheroes! This passage begins while Jesus was teaching people.

Mark 10:13a: It seems that perhaps these folks were interrupting Jesus's teaching.

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

Mark 10:13b: It says that Jesus's disciples rebuked or told them to stop and go away. *

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 10:14a: It says that Jesus was GREATLY displeased! He instead corrects 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 until you swoop in and receive the two children, correcting that other leader!

Mark 10:14b: Jesus says 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!

Rather, Jesus would have us boring adults learn something from you kids: you boys and girls are faith EXPERTS! You trust and believe in God and the Bible with an ease 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 in Him! *

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 God-man who created the whole universe. He is the all-powerful Son of God in Whom all things hold together (**Colossians 1:17**). 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. Just as He stopped what He was doing to welcome kids, your leaders have stopped what they would otherwise be doing this weekend to welcome you, show you Jesus's radical love, and ensure you feel like you BELONG here at church!

Key Point: We want to follow Jesus’s example here at RMC. Kids matter to Jesus and kids matter to all of us leaders here at RMC too!

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 ministry at RMC to be all about:

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

Q: What have we seen in this passage? 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!

Small Group Time Afterwards: We want to give you some extra time to get to know the kids afterwards. See the game below that we will provide full printouts of in your room as well as some M&Ms to play with. * We would also encourage you to introduce your class to the Compassion kid in your room and remind them about the giving jar that goes to that kid.

1st/2nd grade leaders: See the handprint craft which will help you get to know your kids!
3rd-5th grader leaders: We will also supply your room with fresh prayer request sheets * that kids can fill out and give to you. Take them home and commit to praying for your kids throughout the week!

