

Back to Church Weekend

You Belong Here!

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16, Matthew 18:1-5

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14b *“[Jesus said] Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”*

Lesson Focus: This is our special “Back to Church” weekend and we are expecting many new faces. We want to welcome kids in with energy and excitement emphasizing throughout the lesson that they BELONG here at church. Why? Because Jesus shows many times throughout the gospels that kids matter to Him! And if RMC is His house, then kids matter here too!

Activities and Crafts: Jesus Blesses the Children Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure for 3rd-5th
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: “You Belong Here” Slinky

Starter Activity: “You Belong Here” Relay

We will provide you with a bunch of Scrabble letters to play a relay game with. Break your kids up into at least two groups and have the teams lined up on one side of the area. On the other side, put out piles of letters for each group. Then have the kids one-by-one race to fetch letters to spell out the main idea of this week’s lesson, “YOU BELONG HERE”. The first child will need to find the “Y”, and when he comes back and tags the next child, she will need to find the “O”, and so on. Write the phrase on the white board in big letters so each kid knows which letter to get next. The first team to spell it out wins! We will provide you with sets of letters that have enough of each to spell it out. As an alternative, introduce the phrase by playing a game of “Hangman” with the kids (or do both!). *

Afterwards, have some discussion about what it means to “BELONG”.

Q: What does it mean to “belong” to something?

A: It means you have a home or important connection with something special.

Most of you know where you belong in your families, on your sports teams, in your clubs, etc. And having that sense of belonging makes you feel good because you know that your place there matters and is important.

But today, we want to stress that there is another very important place that you belong: right here at RMC! And this isn’t true just because we say so, but because Jesus Christ Himself makes this very clear in the Bible. Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

Teachers: We are going to look at two different portions of Scripture where Jesus shows that children BELONG with Him. The first section, **Mark 10:13-16** is also on the back of our Kids Ministry T-shirts and is the “biblical backbone” of this whole ministry! *

Mark 10:13a: This is one of the most precious passages in all of the Scriptures! While Jesus was teaching a crowd of grownups about a very serious topic it appears that others came to Him, maybe even interrupting His teaching.

Q: Who did it say that they were bringing to Jesus? A: Little kids just like you, probably 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 kids”.

Mark 10:14a: It says that Jesus was GREATLY displeased! * He abruptly corrects the disciples and says to them, “*Don’t you DARE keep the kids from coming to Me!*”

Q: So, was Jesus upset at the kids or His disciples? A: The disciples!

Mark 10:14b: And He stopped whatever He was doing, opened up His arms, and invited these kids to come. Why? Because they matter to Him and BELONG with Him! *

Mark 10:15: Then He looks back at His disciples and has a very important lesson for them: If you want to enter My kingdom and BELONG to Me, become like a child!

Q: WHAT? Does that mean once you grow up you can’t belong to Jesus anymore? NO!

Rather, Jesus would have us grownups learn something from you kids: you boys and girls are faith EXPERTS! You trust and believe in God and His Word with an ease that us grownups struggle with. * It is the wonderful child-like faith and trust in God that you so hold so well 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!

Teachers: Consider acting out what this might have looked like. Select a boy in your class to be Jesus and select several other volunteers to lock hands tightly and form a circle around the Jesus volunteer. Then have another volunteer with a baby doll (we will supply) * try to get to Jesus. But have the kids around the circle try and block them out (of course remind them to be gentle). Then have “Jesus” stand up and dramatically open a way for the outsider to come in so he can lay his hands on the baby doll. *

Now remember Who Jesus is! He is not just some nice guy that likes kids. He is the Creator of the whole universe! He is the all-powerful God in Whom all things hold together (**Colossians 1:17**). The most powerful Being in the whole universe opens up His arms and gently welcomes kids to come and BELONG to Him.

And He had to correct the grownups who thought kids didn't BELONG. This isn't the only time. Let's look at one more example! (**Teachers:** At this point we will transition into Matthew's gospel)

Matthew 18:1: No doubt Jesus's disciples are thinking about their own greatness * and which one of them might be the greatest in His kingdom.

Q: When you think of greatness, what comes to mind? A: Power? Fame? Glory?

Matthew 18:2: Wait! WHAT?

Q: Who did Jesus take from the crowd to teach them about REAL power and strength in God's kingdom? Was it the dude with the biggest muscles? NO!

A: He took a little child, maybe someone just like you! (**Teachers:** Consider using the baby doll again to show who Jesus chose to exemplify greatness in His kingdom)

Matthew 18:3: Again, Jesus warns the grownups * that without a humble, child-like faith and trust in Him, they do NOT BELONG to Him! Rather, if they want to BELONG to Jesus, they must trust in Him just like a child would. *

Matthew 18:4: 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 your eyes off of yourself, you are able to focus on Him and the needs of others! *

Matthew 18:5: And looking at His disciples He wraps up this teaching by challenging them to receive and honor kids, to show them that they BELONG.

Key Point: And this is why we want you to feel like you BELONG here. This is the church, the gathering of Jesus's people. We want you to know how much Jesus loves you and how much He wants you to be here so you can learn about Him and His ways!

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 these passages? Kids matter to God! * YOUR LIFE matters to God!

We are so glad you came today and we hope that you and your family will come back to continue learning about the God who cares about kids, the God who saves kids, and the God who stunned the grownups by honoring kids!

FIND THE TREASURE

Mediterranean World
Countries or Areas and Islands



Read Mark 10:13-14
*Who was Jesus upset at?
Why?*

PARENT CHALLENGE
*What do you like best about church
and why?*

Read Matthew 18:3
*How can grownups
"become like children"?*

