

Jesus Loves the Little Children Craft

Heart pocket of children · Mark 10:13–16 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium

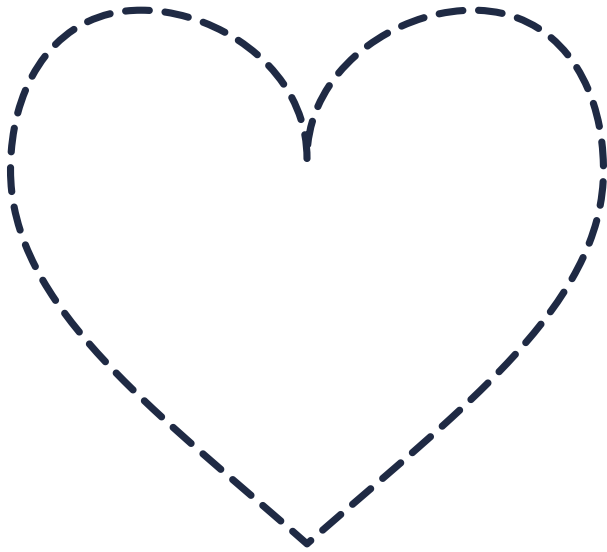


Harder

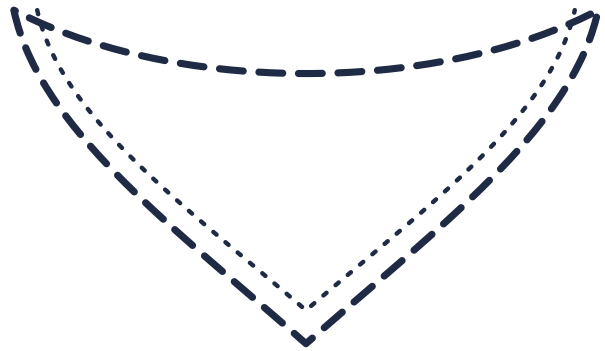
Both levels are a big red paper heart with a pink pocket glued on its bottom half. Four cards, colored yellow, light blue, green and orange, stand in the pocket. In each card's window a child has drawn one of the young children brought to Jesus (Mark 10:13), and one of them is the child who made it. Jesus "took them up in his arms" (10:16). Medium (left): the heart, the pocket and the cards. Harder (right): the same, with a yellow crown behind the top of the heart for "the kingdom of God" (10:14) and a yarn loop to hang it.

Name: _____

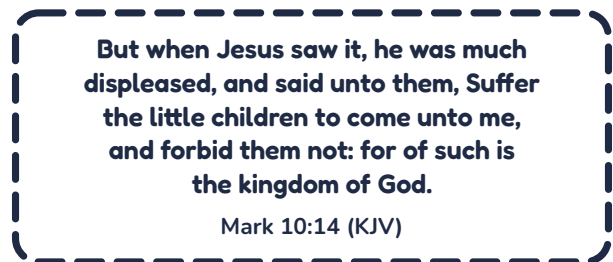
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



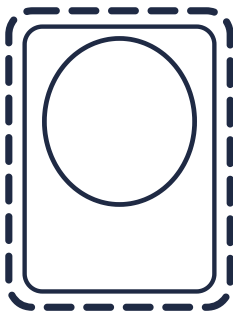
big heart: red



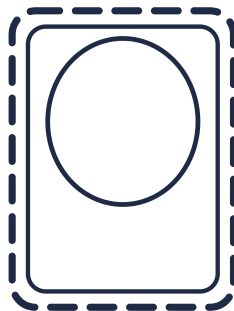
pocket: pink. Glue only the dotted edge (sides and point) to the heart's bottom.



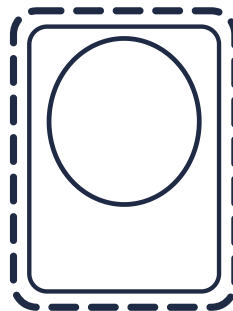
verse card: glue it on the back of the big heart



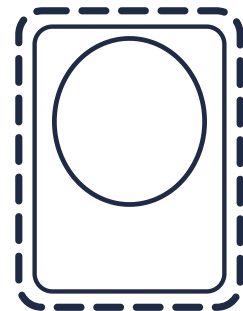
yellow



light blue



green



orange

cards: draw a child in each window. Draw yourself in one of them.

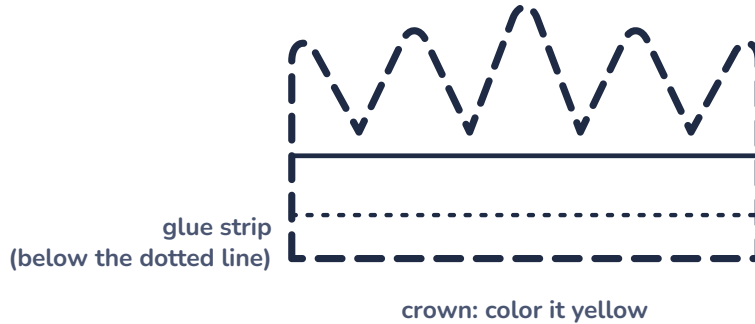
Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the big heart, the pocket, the four cards and the verse card. You also need a glue stick.

Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Crown (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines.

**How to add the crown**

1. Make the heart pocket with the cards and the verse card from page 2 first.
2. Color the crown yellow. Cut it out on the dashed lines.
3. Put glue on the printed side of the glue strip, below the dotted line. Press it onto the back of the big heart, at the top in the middle, so the crown stands up above the heart between its two round tops.
4. Fold a piece of yarn about 10 inches long into a loop. Tape both ends to the back of the crown, so the heart can hang on a wall or a doorknob.
5. Tell it: Jesus said, "for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). A kingdom is where a king rules, and the crown helps us remember God's kingdom. Point to the cards: God's kingdom belongs to people like these children, and everyone must receive it "as a little child" (10:15).

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/jesus-and-the-children-craft

Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels

You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), red, pink, yellow, light blue, green and orange crayons or markers, crayons for drawing the children, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, a yellow crayon, a piece of yarn about 10 inches long for each child, and clear tape.

Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the big heart, the pocket, the four cards and the verse card ahead of time, and glue the pocket onto the heart. For the harder level, cut the yarn.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the pocket onto the heart. Kids color the heart, the pocket and the cards, and draw a child in each window. Help them glue the verse card on the back. Then they slide the cards into the pocket.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out the pieces and glue the pocket on themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the heart pocket like the medium level. Then add the yellow crown from page 3 behind the top of the heart and a yarn loop to hang it, for "the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14–15). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the big heart red and the pocket pink. Color the four cards yellow, light blue, green and orange, one color each. Leave the windows white.
2. **Draw:** in each card's window, draw one of the young children who were brought to Jesus (Mark 10:13). Draw yourself in one of them, because Jesus loves you too.
3. **Cut:** cut out the big heart, the pocket, the four cards and the verse card on the dashed lines.
4. **Pocket:** turn the pocket over. Put glue along its two sides and its bottom point only (the dotted line on the front shows where). Press it onto the bottom of the big heart so the edges line up. Leave the top open.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse card on the back of the big heart and read it together.
6. **Tell it:** slide the four cards into the pocket, so the children are held in the heart. "He took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:16). Jesus loves kids!



Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the cards. Who did people bring to Jesus? (*Young children, Mark 10:13*)
- Why did they bring them? (*So that He would touch them, 10:13, and put His hands on them and pray, Matthew 19:13*)
- What did the disciples do? (*They rebuked those that brought them, Mark 10:13*)
- How did Jesus feel when He saw it? (*Much displeased, very unhappy, 10:14*)
- Turn the heart over and read the verse. What does "suffer" mean? (*Let. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them," 10:14*)
- Slide the cards into the pocket. What did Jesus do with the children? (*He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them, 10:16*)
- Harder level: point to the crown. Who did Jesus say must receive the kingdom of God as a little child? (*Whosoever, everyone, even grown-ups, 10:15*)

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** **rebuked** means scolded; **much displeased** means very unhappy; **suffer** means let (it has nothing to do with hurting); **forbid them not** means don't stop them; **of such is the kingdom of God** means God's kingdom belongs to people like these; **verily** means truly; **blessed them** means He prayed good things for them.
- **What the Bible says:** "they brought young children to him" (Mark 10:13). It doesn't say who brought them, how many children there were, or whether they were boys or girls, so kids may draw any children they like. The four cards, the heart, the pocket and the crown are the craft's simple picture of the story, not details from the Bible.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** each child draws the children in the card windows, and one of them is the child who made it. The heart stands for Jesus' love, which held the children close: "he took them up in his arms" (Mark 10:16).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the pocket on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue, so the pocket stays open. Let every child slide the cards in and say, "Jesus loves me!"
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jesus loves the little children lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/jesus-and-the-children.