

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus loves me.

Bible passage: Mark 10:13–16. Read Mark 10:13–16 and Matthew 19:13–15 yourself before class.

Memory verse: "Suffer the little children to come unto me" *Mark 10:14 (KJV)*. The old word **suffer** means let.

You need: a Bible, a soft blanket or rug to sit on, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 10. Spread the blanket on the floor at the front of the room.

1. Opening game: Come Sit with Me (5 minutes)

Sit on the blanket. Call each child by name: "(Name), come sit with me!" The child walks, hops or tiptoes to the blanket and sits down. Keep going until every child is on the blanket. Say: "Everyone came! Today we will hear a true story about Jesus and some little children."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 10. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus was teaching the people (Mark 10:1). *(Put your hands together like a book.)*

People brought young children to Jesus (10:13). *(Walk in place.)*

They wanted Jesus to touch them (10:13). *(Hold out your hands.)*

But the disciples scolded the people who brought them (10:13). *(Shake your head and hold up one hand.)*

Jesus saw it. He was not happy (10:14). *(Make a frown.)*

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me!" (10:14). *(Wave "come here" with both hands.)*

Say it with me: "Let the children come!"

Jesus picked them up in His arms (10:16). *(Hug yourself.)*

He put His hands on them (10:16). *(Put your hands on your head.)*

He blessed them (10:16). *(Fold your hands to pray.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus loves me!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who did people bring to Jesus? (*Little children, Mark 10:13*)
2. What did Jesus say? (*"Let the children come to Me," 10:14*)
3. What did Jesus do with the children? (*He picked them up in His arms and blessed them, 10:16*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me.' **Suffer** means let. Jesus said, 'Let the children come to Me!'" Teach the motion: wave both hands toward you, "come here," then give yourself a big hug. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 10:14" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Jesus Loves Me (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big heart and draw themselves inside it. While they color, ask: "Who did Jesus let come to Him? Who does Jesus love?" Kids who finish early can play Come Sit with Me again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, Jesus, for loving me.

Help me love other kids too. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and say every child's name today. If they get wiggly, do the "come here" wave and the big hug again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.