Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus loves kids, and everyone is welcome to come to Him.
Bible passage: Mark 10:13–16 and Matthew 19:13–15. Read them before class.
Memory verse: "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." *Mark 10:14 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 8 paper strips, a marker, tape, a paper heart, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 8 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Mark 10:14 and Mark 10:16.

1. Opening game: Come to Me (5 minutes)

Kids line up on one side of the room. You stand on the other side. Call out, "Come to me if you are wearing blue!" Everyone wearing blue walks over to you. Keep going: "Come to me if you have a brother... if you like apples... if you had breakfast today." Last of all, call, "Come to me if you are a kid!" Everyone comes. Say: "Everyone was welcome! Today we will hear what Jesus said when people brought young children to Him."

2. Bible story: Jesus Blesses the Children (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 10, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus came to the land of **Judaea**, on the far side of the Jordan River. People came to Him again, and He taught them, the way He always did (Mark 10:1). Great crowds followed Him, and He healed them there (Matthew 19:2).

Then some people **brought young children** to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to touch them (Mark 10:13), to put His hands on them and pray (Matthew 19:13).

But Jesus' **disciples**, the men who followed Him and learned from Him, **rebuked** the people who brought the children (Mark 10:13). Say: "**Rebuked** means they scolded them and told them they were wrong."

When Jesus saw it, He was **much displeased** (10:14). Say: "That means Jesus was very unhappy with what His disciples did."

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The story continues: **Read Mark 10:14 from your Bible:** "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Say: "**Suffer** is an old word that means let. **Forbid them not** means don't stop them. Jesus was saying, 'Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them!' **Of such is the kingdom of God** means God's kingdom belongs to people like these children."

Then Jesus said that whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will not enter it (10:15). Say: "Everyone, even grown-ups, must come to God the way a little child comes."

Read Mark 10:16 from your Bible: "And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Say: "Jesus picked the children up in His arms! He put His hands on them and **blessed** them. That means He prayed good things for them. Jesus loves kids, and He loves you!"

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who did people bring to Jesus? *(Young children, Mark 10:13)*
2. What did the disciples do? *(They rebuked, or scolded, the people who brought them, 10:13)*
3. How did Jesus feel when He saw it? *(Much displeased, very unhappy, 10:14)*
4. What did Jesus say? *("Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," 10:14)*
5. What three things did Jesus do for the children? *(He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them, 10:16)*

4. Memory verse: Come in Order (5 minutes)

Tape the 8 strips up in order: *But when Jesus saw it, / he was much displeased, / and said unto them, / Suffer the little children / to come unto me, / and forbid them not: / for of such / is the kingdom of God. Mark 10:14.* Explain the old words: **much displeased** means very unhappy, **suffer** means let, **forbid them not** means don't stop them, and **of such** means people like these. Read the verse together. Then hand the 8 strips to 8 children. Say, "Come unto me!" and they come to you one at a time, in the right order, reading their strip out loud. Mix up the strips, give them to other children, and play again until everyone can say the verse.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me.' You are never too young to come to Jesus! God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: Jesus welcomed the children, so we welcome others too. Be kind to a younger child, and invite a friend to come to church with you.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Jesus loves the little children word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/jesus-and-the-children-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/jesus-and-the-children-craft), or **Pass the Heart:** kids sit in a circle. Pass the paper heart around. Each child who gets it says, "Jesus loves (the name of the child next to them)!" and passes it on. Go around until every child has heard their name.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus loves kids and lets every one of us come to Him. Help us welcome others the way Jesus welcomed the children. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why the disciples rebuked the people: the Bible doesn't tell us why. It tells us that Jesus was much displeased and wanted the children to come to Him (Mark 10:14). Jesus always has time for kids.

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