

Lesson 2—Matthew 19:14

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them.’”

Additional verses to consider:

- Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things, if God is for us, who can be against us?”
- Luke 9:46-48 “An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, ‘Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.’”
- Matthew 18:3 “Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”
- 1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise you for your youth...”
- Psalm 27:10** “For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.”
- If you chose to use the Character Illustration, familiarize yourself with the story of David, 1 Samuel 16-17.
- Psalm 131

***This may not always be appropriate to bring in, but if you’re working with children of divorce, or who come from broken homes or difficult upbringings, this verse can be a powerful promise to emphasize.*

Verses from last week to review: Genesis 1:1 (begin (or end) class by asking everyone to review verses from last week)

Supplies to bring / have on hand:

Paper plates, paper fasteners, letter beads, bracelet elastic, extra beads.
Lesson 2 Printable Art (download at Write the Word on my Heart)

Read & Discuss the Word:

- Matthew 19:13-15—Do we know this story? What is happening? Have you ever been turned away for being a child?
- Why would people turn away children? (Loud, bouncy, think they're too young to understand bigger concepts)
- What is God's heart towards children? (Wants them to come near, to not be despised, to be cared for, received)
- How do we know? (Matthew 19:14, Rom 8:31, 1 Tim 4:12)

Apply the Word:

As we begin this study through the word, we want to look at God's heart for you. When I was little, I thought the Bible was a big book just for adults. Do you ever think that? It had a lot of words, and not a lot of pictures, and I saw my parents reading it, but sometimes I was a little scared of it. And I knew about God, but I thought he was just for my parents God. *(This was my experience, please personalize it according to yours or you could just say "some people")*

But God says, "Let the little children come to me," He has something in his word—just for you. He has verses that are in the Bible—just for children. Did you know that? Now, on the one hand we could say the whole Bible is for everyone, and that's true. But there are also verses specifically written for kids. Like when Paul says, "children, honor your father and your mother... that it may go well with you," He is expecting that as this letter to the Ephesians was being read, there were children there listening to the Bible as well. This year, as we go through this book, we want to look at God's word as something for *US.* God is saying, "come, listen, learn from me."

Do you know God loves you? Do you know that he is for you? Sometimes your moms and dads mess up and they send you away when they should bring you to their side. Sometimes you will try to do something in the church, and some may turn you away. Sometimes you'll try to ask a question about something and a big brother or sister will say you're too little to understand? Does that ever happen to you?

If it does happen, it's important to remember, always and forever: God is for you. God loves you. God wants you to come. Even if your dad and mom mess up, even

if your brother and sister turn you away. Even if the whole world seems to turn it's back on you, what is still true: God says "come, I will take you in."

But how do we come to God? (Psalm 131—like a weaned child)

Character Illustration: David

Do we remember the story of David? David wrote Psalm 27, "though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in."

- Remember when Samuel came looking for David to anoint him King? Jesse didn't even bring him to be counted because he thought *he was too little* to be a King.
- Remember when David brought bread and cheese to his brothers on the battlefield? And he heard Goliath's taunts. And he couldn't stand it because God's name was being defiled. And he so much wanted to fight and believed God would help him. What did his brothers say? What did Saul say? "*You're too little, go away, go back home.*" Has anyone ever told you that?

But did God think David was too small? No, God was with David and even though he was small, God loved his heart, and when he went to fight Goliath, God went with him. (This story is wonderful and can be developed as much as you'd like or have time for)

Craft the Word: "God created"

Two small paper plates: On the first paper plate, cut out a small window, roughly 1/3 of the plate. Have the child draw themselves on the other section.

On the second plate, have the child draw those who would turn him away on one half, and the Lord on the 2nd half. Attach the two plates with a paper fastener

As the child turns the plate, they should see, though the world may say, "you're too little, God is always extending his hands saying, "come"

Find the printable for this lesson on the website.

Watch or Sing the Word:

Song: Jesus Loves the Little Children—sometimes we sing this song so often that the words lose their meaning, but it's worth taking a moment to consider these words a little more deeply

Printables to go along with

Matthew 19:14

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And do not hinder them.

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Go away!
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