

17. Jesus Blesses the Children



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Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Blesses the Children" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

End your time by blessing each child individually, saying something along these lines: [Name,] I bless you in Jesus' name. Jesus loves you and invites you to be a member of his family. If you're leading this session with your family, consider laying your hand on each child's head as you bless them.

Then close in prayer, thanking Jesus for loving and inviting all of you to be part of God's family.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #108 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Provide each child with a printed [picture of Jesus](#), and a piece of paper. Have them glue or tape the picture of Jesus to the paper and then draw a picture of themselves with Jesus. If you want, you can also have them cut pictures of children from magazines to add to the collage.

If you are meeting in person, another option would be to make one large group collage of Jesus in the middle and all the children in your group around him. Have each child work on their picture individually, and then you can add them all to the collage as the children finish.

Story: Jesus Blesses the Children [Mark 10:13-16](#)

Jesus and his disciples were out and about. I'm sure you can already picture what it was like—Jesus and his disciples were together, but do you think they were alone? *(Pause for responses.)* No, they were not alone. There were people crowding around Jesus, pushing to get closer. Pushing to see him better. Shoving to be able to hear him better. What else might people have been hoping to see Jesus do on this day? *(Pause for responses.)*

The truth is, on this day something interesting was going on. *(Open your Bible and read the first half of [Mark 10:13](#).)* **Why do you think moms and dads wanted Jesus to bless their children?** *(Pause for responses.)*

You might think that that would be OK with everyone. But it wasn't! Jesus' disciples stood in the way and blocked people from bringing their children to Jesus. Even worse, they spoke sternly to some of the dads and moms. **If they wanted to be sure to stop people, what kinds of things do you think they said?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Of course, Jesus heard the disciples trying to shoo the children away. He heard what they said to the parents. And Jesus was not happy about it.

He said, "Let the children come to me! Don't push them away. Children belong to my kingdom. They're part of it." **How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus said that to them?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Jesus was very serious about what he said. Not only did he want everyone to hear his words, he did something to show everyone with his actions that he was very, very serious about it. Jesus called the kids to come up. He held some very little ones in his arms. He put his hand on other kids' heads to bless them. Jesus loves children!

Do you think all the children understood what was happening? Why or why not? *(Pause for responses.)*
What do you think the older children thought? *(Pause for responses.)* **What do you think the adults who were watching thought?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Jesus showed that children are an important part of God's family and the church. Jesus welcomes and blesses every one of you!

Show the story symbol for this session. Ask the kids to take a mental picture of it so they will remember it forever. Tell them to imagine that the hand is Jesus' hand and it is placed on the top of their head to bless them.

End your story time by singing the familiar song "Jesus Loves Me." (If this song isn't familiar to you, an Internet search will yield both the lyrics and the tune.)

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Jesus and the Children](#)
 - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Children Learn about Jesus](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Blesses the Children](#)
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