

Jesus Loves Children

Lesson 24

Bible Story

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Teacher Challenge

Adults might not treat children with the same respect with which they treat other adults. But Jesus' attitude toward children is radically different!

On at least one occasion, parents came to Jesus because they wanted His blessing on their children. When the disciples turned these parents and children away, Jesus became angry. He was indignant about this wrong done to children. Jesus made it very clear to His disciples that children are as important and as worthy of respect and attention as any adult.

- ➔ What do you do to welcome and respect the children who come to your class?
- ➔ How can you show you value the most troubled child you know? How can you help that child learn he or she matters to Jesus?

Jesus still has that same heart of love for every child! Ask Him to empower you to love them as He does so that they know Jesus loves and longs to bless each one of them.

God's Word

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word and Me

Jesus loves and cares for me every day.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 24

Active Game Center: Red Light, Green Light

Collect

Bible.

Do

1. Children play a game like Red Light, Green Light. Stand at a wall in your classroom. Children stand in a line at the opposite side of the playing area. Say "Come!" Children walk towards the wall. After a few moments, say "Stop!" Children freeze in place.
2. Continue saying "Come!" and "Stop!" until all the children reach the wall. Children return to starting place. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus told His friends to let children come to see Him. Jesus loves all the children! Let's play a game where we are invited to "Come!"**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Jesus said this because Jesus loves all children.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. We love You, too!**

God's Word
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word and Me
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



For Younger Children

Children stand in a circle. When you say "Come!" children walk in a circle. When you say "Stop!" children freeze in place.

For Older Children

Let a child stand at the wall with a sheet of red and a sheet of green paper. Child shows appropriate papers instead of saying "Stop" and "Go."

Play to Learn

Lesson 24

Art Center: Heart Art

Collect

Bible, construction paper, marker, pink and red tissue paper, scissors, glue; optional—Lesson 24 Heart Art Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, card stock.

Prepare

Print “Jesus loves me” on sheets of construction paper, one for each child. Cut tissue paper into a variety of shapes and sizes. (Optional: Copy Heart Art Pattern onto card stock and cut out to use as a template.)

Do

Children glue pieces of tissue paper on construction paper, without covering up the words “Jesus loves me.” Teacher or helper cuts the construction paper into a heart shape. (Optional: Use the Heart Art Pattern as a template.)

Talk About

- ➔ **In today’s Bible story, Jesus told His friends to let children come to see Him. Jesus loves and cares for all the children in the world! Let’s make heart pictures to remind us of Jesus’ love.**
- ➔ **Ian, thank you for handing Julian the scissors. Being kind to others is a way to show we love Jesus!**
- ➔ **We say “Jesus loves me” to remind us of Jesus’ love. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, thank You for loving all the children in the world!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me.’” Jesus wanted to see the children because He loves all children! Jesus loves and cares for us each day.**



For Younger Children

Instead of using tissue paper, cut heart shapes from construction paper. Children glue heart shapes to decorate a sheet of construction paper.

For Older Children

Children use heart-shaped cookie cutters to trace hearts onto construction paper, cut out hearts and use hearts to make designs on their sheets of construction paper.

Play to Learn

Lesson 24

Construction Center: Playground Fun

Collect

Bible, cardboard, scissors, blocks, short sections of PVC pipes and corners, toy people; optional—cardboard tubes.

Prepare

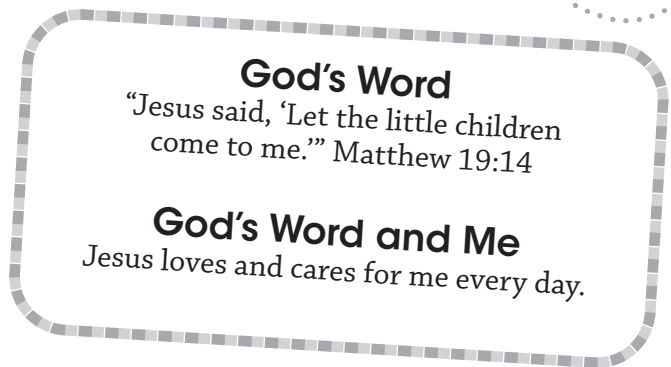
Cut cardboard into 3x8-inch (7.5x20-cm) strips.

Do

1. Children use blocks to outline a playground. Children use cardboard to make slides, and PVC pipes and corners to build playground equipment. (Optional: Children use cardboard tubes to build playground equipment.)
2. Children play with toy people in the playground they built.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me.’” Jesus wanted to see the children because Jesus loves children! Jesus loves and cares for each one of us every day. Let’s build a playground for children to play in!**
- ➔ **Knowing how much Jesus loves us makes us happy! Ella, what are some ways we can show we are happy that Jesus loves us?** (Sing to Jesus. Pray to Jesus and thank Him for loving us. Show love to others.)
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. Thank You for caring for us every day. We love You!**



For Younger Children

Younger children play with blocks and toy people.

For Older Children

Provide cookie sheets, aluminum foil, cardboard boxes and tubes for children to use in building a playground.

Play to Learn

Lesson 24

Dramatic Play Center: Getting Ready

Collect

Bible, dress-up items (dresses, shirts, hats, purses, etc.), toy food, toy dishes.

Do

Children pretend to be a family and act out getting ready to go to church (get dressed and eat breakfast, ride in car, etc.).

Talk About

- **In today's Bible story, many parents were excited to bring their children to see Jesus. Today, your moms and dads brought you to church so that you could learn about Jesus' love! Let's pretend to be a family getting ready to go to church.**
- **Makayla, what do you usually eat for breakfast before going to church? What are some things we do at church to learn about Jesus' love?** (Sing songs and hear Bible stories about Jesus. Hear and say Bible verses.)
- **The Bible says, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Jesus wanted everyone to know that He loves children. Jesus loves and cares for each of you every day.**

God's Word
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word and Me
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



For Younger Children

Provide several mirrors so children can look at themselves in the mirror.

For Older Children

Provide Bible-times costumes instead of modern clothing. Older children act out the story events as you briefly retell the story. Expect to retell the story several times as children come and go from the Dramatic Play Center.

Listen to Learn

Lesson 24

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 40 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, 10 items that show Jesus' care for us (toy food, children's or doll clothing, dollhouse furniture, plastic or paper cup, bottle of water or pitcher, etc.).

Greet Each Other

Children stand in a circle. Sing these words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," using names of children. Clap as you sing.

Who is here today? Who is here today?

Let's all clap our hands and see who is here today.

Audrey's here today. Chase is here today.

Autumn, Jeff and Xavier, they're all here today.

Each child sits down as you sing his or her name. Repeat song until all children have been named and are seated.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 19. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 40 pictures.

What do you do to get ready to visit a friend? Let's listen to hear what some people did before they went to see Jesus.



One day, some parents had heard that Jesus was coming. They wanted their children to meet Jesus! So they called their children. They probably washed the children's faces. They combed the children's hair. The mothers probably made sure their children were wearing clean clothes. Then off the families **went** toward the place where Jesus was.

As these families walked closer, they could see that Jesus was busy. He was talking to some grown-ups.



But those mothers and fathers wanted their children to meet Jesus! They probably took their children's hands. They went in and out and around the crowd of people. Soon they were close to Jesus. They must have been happy and excited!

But just then, some of Jesus' friends **stopped** the families. "Stand back!" they said. "Jesus is too busy to see children."

The children and their mothers and fathers must have felt so sad! They turned to walk away. But wait! They **heard** Jesus say something.



"Let the children come to Me!" Jesus said. "Do not send the children away. I love children. I want to see them!" Jesus had not wanted His friends to send the children away at all!

God's Word
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'" Matthew 19:14

God's Word and Me
Jesus loves and cares for me every day.



Jesus' friends must have felt a little silly. They were surprised that Jesus cared so much about children. Jesus thought that children were just as important as grown-ups.

So the children came to Jesus. Some children probably ran to **hug** him. Some children may have stood shyly near Him. A few probably climbed right up onto His lap. Jesus put His arms around them. He prayed for each child. The children must have felt very happy! The children knew that Jesus loved them.

Talk About the Story

How did Jesus show that He loves children? (He told His helpers to let the children come to Him.)

Every day, Jesus loves us and cares for us. One way Jesus shows His love is by giving us people to care for us. What are some other ways Jesus shows love for us? (Listens when we pray. Helps us do good things.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about the people Jesus loves. Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves You and Me" (on DVD or track 8 on CD). **Every day, Jesus loves and cares for you and me—everyone!**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 19:14, say verse aloud. **Jesus wanted the children to come to Him to show that He loves children. Jesus loves and cares for each one of us.** Lead children in saying the Bible verse in the following manner: When children say the words "Jesus said," they clap their hands on each syllable of the words. When children say the words "Let the little children," they pat their thighs on each syllable of the words. Finally, when children say the words "come to me," they stomp a foot on each word. Repeat as time allows.

Pray to God

Let's thank God for His love. Repeat the following prayer several times, each time allowing two or three volunteers to name someone he or she knows: **Dear God, thank You for loving Jason, Ariana and Sara's moms.** Repeat as needed and then close the prayer by saying, **Thank You, God, for loving everyone! We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option: As part of the prayer activity, ask the children to name ways that Jesus cares for us. Volunteers then choose one of the things mentioned and pray aloud to Jesus.

Praise to God

Children sit in a circle. In the center of the circle, place five items that show Jesus' care (toy food, children's or doll clothing, dollhouse furniture, plastic or paper cup, bottle of water or pitcher, etc.). Children close their eyes while you remove one object. Children identify the missing object. Repeat, increasing the number of items as children become familiar with the game.

Talk to Learn

Lesson 24

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 40 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #2* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—small fabric pieces, glue.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue fabric pieces to children's clothing on page.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Bible Story Puzzle 24, Bible Verse Puzzle 24 and/or Challenge Puzzle 24 from *The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2* for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 24 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #2* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

