

4.10 JESUS LOVES CHILDREN

MARK 10:1-16

One day, Jesus was teaching in a place called Judea. A large crowd once again had gathered to hear Him speak. Jesus was getting used to this! He was glad to teach this group of people, too.

The Pharisees were also there. These were religious men who didn't like Jesus. They asked Him difficult questions they thought he couldn't answer. But Jesus answered every question. They couldn't argue with Him because His answers were so clear. It made them even more angry with him.

During this time of teaching, many people wanted Jesus to touch their children. They knew Jesus was so special that if He touched their children, the children would be blessed. Maybe they would be healed of a disease; maybe they would be kinder to each other; maybe they would live good lives and serve God. Whatever reason they were thinking, many people brought their children to Jesus.

The disciples thought this was a waste of Jesus' time. They spoke to the parents and told them to get back, to not bother Jesus by bringing their children to Him. But when Jesus noticed this, He was very displeased with His followers. He knew they were wrong to keep the children away. He then said to the disciples, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! God's kingdom belongs to people who are like little children." Children easily believe, they easily trust, they easily love. Jesus told them that unless they believe and accept God's kingdom like a little child does, they will never get in. The disciples knew that Jesus spoke the truth, so they stepped back and let the children through.

Therefore, Jesus continued to welcome the children. He gathered them in His arms, just like a mom or a dad would do, or like a grandmother or grandfather would do. He held them up. He showed them how much He loved them. Then, He laid His hands on them and blessed them. That must have been such a special moment, not only for the children but also for their parents.

Jesus loves Children. Jesus loves you.

4.10 JESUS LOVES CHILDREN - TEACHER'S GUIDE

MARK 10:1-16

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jesus was teaching again to great groups of people. They knew He had important things to tell them. They were eager to learn all He had to teach. But there were also others there who disagreed with what He was doing. They were religious men called Pharisees. They wanted to ask Jesus questions they thought He couldn't answer. The Pharisees would then think they were smarter and better than Jesus.
- 2) Parents wanted to bring their children to Jesus for Him to bless them. It was something very important to the parents there. There would have been a lot of children. Would Jesus be able to bless them all? Yes. It was something He wanted to do.
- 3) The disciples tried to stop the parents from bringing their children. Jesus got angry with the disciples. He told them to let the children come to Him. He said that everyone needed to be like a little child to be in God's kingdom.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who were the people who disagreed with Jesus?
- 2) What did the parents want to do?
- 3) What did the disciples do?
- 4) What did Jesus say to the disciples?
- 5) What did Jesus do?

ANSWERS:

- 1) The Pharisees disagreed with Jesus.
- 2) They wanted to bring their children to Jesus.
- 3) They tried to stop the parents from bringing their children to Jesus.
- 4) Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him.
- 5) Jesus held the children and blessed them.