GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Jesus Welcomes the Children

Mark 10:13-16



YOUR BIBLE READING

Children matter to Jesus and belong in his welcome.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

People Bringing Children Near

Mark 10:13-16



People brought little children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them. They wanted the children to receive his attention and blessing. Mark does not name the children or tell us how many came. The small details he gives are enough to show the movement: people were bringing children closer, but something happened among Jesus' followers that began to block their way to him.

The disciples scolded the people bringing the children. They tried to stop the approach. Mark does not explain their reasons, so we should not invent a conversation about Jesus being too tired or too important for children. We can see the result without guessing at the reason: children who were being brought near were meeting resistance from the people who were supposed to be following Jesus.

Jesus saw what was happening and was indignant. This was more than a small matter he could leave to his disciples. He told them to allow the children to come to him and not to hinder them. His words challenged the barrier his followers had placed in the way. The children did not have to become older before they could belong within the circle of his welcome and concern.

Jesus explained that God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. His followers needed to understand something about God's rule and God's gift by looking at the ones they had tried to turn away. In this moment, the children were not an interruption to an important lesson. Their presence became part of the lesson Jesus was teaching the adults who stood between the children and him on that day.

Remember: Jesus makes room for children to come close.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

A Welcome Children Could Experience

Mark 10:13-16



Jesus went on to say that anyone who received God's kingdom needed to receive it as a little child does. The kingdom was not something people could enter simply by making themselves important. In this scene, those who seemed small had a central place in his teaching. The adults were called to receive, while the children they had tried to exclude were welcomed near their teacher.

Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, placing his hands on them. His welcome was not only an announcement to the disciples. It became care the children themselves received. The people had brought them seeking his blessing, and Jesus gave that blessing. Mark's scene ends with his personal attention to the very children whose approach had first been stopped by those around him.

To understand this welcome, notice who had to change course. Jesus did not tell the children that they had first failed a test or needed to show that they deserved his care. He corrected the disciples who were blocking them. Their size and age were no reason for being kept away. God's kingdom was not reserved for those who could make an impressive place for themselves among grown-ups.

This short account gives children a clear place in the story of Jesus. They can receive care, be included, and be treated as people who matter now. We are not given invented words from the children or told what each one felt. We are given something stronger than a guessed reaction: Jesus' own words of welcome and his actions as he held and blessed those who had been brought to him.

Pause and think: What would make a younger or newly arrived child feel truly included in something you do?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

A Place for You and for Others



Children can sometimes feel that important conversations always belong to adults. Jesus' welcome says that being young does not make you unimportant. Your questions can be heard, your needs can be taken seriously, and you can learn about God. If you need someone to explain a word or give you time to speak, asking for that help is a reasonable part of belonging.

You can also notice who is being kept out of a group. Someone may be younger, new to a game, or slower to understand the rules. A welcoming action might be explaining the game patiently, finding a suitable role, or asking an adult to help everyone participate. Including someone means thinking about what makes taking part possible, not only saying that they may stand nearby.

The care Jesus showed does not mean you must accept unwanted touch from another person. You can choose safe ways to greet people or pray with them, and you can tell a trusted adult when something makes you uncomfortable. A good welcome respects your safety, your words, and your body as well as your place in the group.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus made room for children and showed that they mattered in God's kingdom.

What would make a younger or newly arrived child feel truly included in something you do?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Who tried to stop the children from coming?

2. How did Jesus welcome the children?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Jesus holds and blesses the children.
- ☐ The disciples object, and Jesus tells them to let children come.
- ☐ People bring children to Jesus.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a welcoming space around Jesus with children of different ages.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Jesus makes room for children to come close.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Mark 10:14-16

A thoughtful conversation

Jesus' welcome does not remove children's bodily boundaries. Children may choose safe ways to greet or pray and never need to accept unwanted touch from an adult to prove trust in God.

Activity answers

1. The disciples.
2. He took them in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

Jesus, thank you for welcoming children. Help us make others feel included. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Mark 10:13-16. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original DigiPick artwork made with AI assistance; an artistic interpretation.
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