

## Introduction

As we start the month of May, we continue to be in the season of Easter. However, pay attention because you will notice a change in our season & liturgical color later this month! During this month we will hear amazing stories that show us yet again how much Jesus loves ALL people! Later in the month we will hear the story of Ascension and Pentecost. Please note that we will not have a Good Shepherd lesson or Sunday school on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – enjoy Memorial Day weekend with your family and join us for in-person or virtual church – 9:00 & 11:00 am services available!

This curriculum helps our children continue to grow cognitively, emotionally, and spiritually in their relationship with God. Your job as the parent/guardian is to facilitate your child(ren) through this lesson. Enjoy watching & listening to the story all together, talk through the wondering questions (try your best to not answer these questions - let your child(ren) truly wonder), and help guide them through the activity they choose for the day. Not answering the wondering questions might be the most challenging part of this curriculum, but that is how we help them grow. Here is what's included in this lesson:

- **What's Going On** – background information for the daily Bible story.
- **The Bible Story** – time to watch and read the Bible story lesson.
- **Wondering Questions** – available for both our younger and older friends.
- **Daily Activities** – interactive ways to help your child dive deeper into our weekly lesson.
- **Prayer**

## What's Going On

*The Good Shepherd children's curriculum has a section called "Teacher Helps". This section will help give you our parent/guardians a deeper background to today's story.*

### Teacher Helps (written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe)

The disciples believed they were helping Jesus. They believed that in keeping these troublesome children out of the way they were allowing their master time and energy for important works, important people. How they misunderstood!

Part of Jesus' ministry that was difficult for his followers to understand was Jesus' unusual desire to care for the powerless. This is exhibited as Jesus ate with tax collectors, talked with prostitutes and touched the untouchable lepers. Jesus loved the children. The scriptures tell us that Jesus became angry with his disciples when they tried to keep the children away. Instead, Jesus made examples of the children, reminding his disciples that to such belong the kingdom of God. The disciples were told that they must come like children, seeking his blessing, to enter the kingdom.

This story is very powerful for children. We need to remember that children are basically powerless. That is, legally at least, less so today than it was in Jesus' day. And yet it's not completely different. Even today a child's wages are legally his parent's until the age of 18 and in some states 21. In the traditions of the Old Testament children were the property of their father. He could sell them if he wished, as slaves, or even have disobedient children put to death. (The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible, Pat Alexander, Batavia: Lion Publishing, 1986, p. 163)

## Let the Children Come

In this story Jesus took those with no power and made them the models for those who would have the greatest reward, a place in God's kingdom. The kingdom will belong to those who come to God like children, open and trusting.

This story says that children were and are important to God. This is the time when the adults are not the models the children are to follow, but rather the children are the ones the adults are to fashion themselves after.

The wondering questions begin by considering if the children were afraid of the disciples. Let the children answer this. Some may rely on the fact that the parents were with their children so they wouldn't be really afraid, while others may feel that the children were scared of the disciples.

We imagine Jesus' voice being kind and gentle in most cases. But here it says that "when Jesus saw it (the children being rebuked), he was indignant." How would Jesus sound if he was indignant, or angry? It's important to children, and adults, to allow a full range of emotions to belong to Jesus. Anger is not bad, even for, or maybe especially for, Jesus. This anger was beneficial for the children and most children will sense the difference between just anger and irrational anger.

The final question is a very different wondering. As we wonder what it would be like to be held in Jesus' arms, we go far away from anger and very close to peace and security. Jesus didn't just talk to the children. He didn't bless them only with words, but with his touch as well. We try to carry this out as we bless each of the children as they leave the room.

This story is included because it speaks on two levels. To children it will say, "There is a special place for me in Jesus' heart and kingdom." To adults it will say, "God's love is a radical inversion of power with much being given to the otherwise powerless." Hopefully, the child we teach, will understand both when he/she becomes an adult.

You may have noticed that we do not capitalize "kingdom" when referring to the "kingdom of God". This is intentional. It's very easy for adults and therefore easier for children to concretize the "kingdom" as a geographical place (much like "heaven" is seen to be above the clouds). We are urging a growth for all of us to understand the "kingdom" as broader than that. It is here and now, within us, around us, and yet to be.

## The Bible Story

*Please watch and read today's story:*

- **Watch the Story** (*Biblical adaptations written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe*)  
Together, watch the children's story time found on Manchester UMC's website under Children & Families: Sunday Morning: <https://manchesterumc.org/sunday-morning/>
- **Scripture Lesson – Mark 10:13-16**  
Encourage your elementary child(ren) to find & read this story in the Bible. Assist as needed.

## Wondering Questions

*"Wondering Questions" are open ended discussion questions. Parents/Guardians, try as hard as possible to NOT answer these questions for your child(ren).*

### Wondering Questions for Children (written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe)

1. I wonder if the children were afraid of the disciples?
2. I wonder how Jesus' voice sounded when he was angry?
3. I wonder how it felt to be held in Jesus' arms?

### Wondering Questions for Older Children (written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe)

1. The disciples didn't want the children to "bother" Jesus. Share a time when you felt like "a bother" to someone. Who was it and what was going on?
2. Jesus told the adults gathered there that unless they become like a child, they couldn't enter the kingdom of heaven. What characteristics do you think you have that adults don't have?
3. Think about yourself. What are the things about yourself that you really like? How can you be sure you'll still have those things when you are an adult?

## Daily Activities

### All Ages

Please find the attached puzzles, activities, and coloring pages. These can be used by all students participating in today's lesson.

### All Ages – Heart Art

*What you need: construction paper, marker, tissue paper (optional – construction paper would work here too), scissors, and glue.*

**SAY:** In today's Bible story, Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him. Jesus loves and cares for all children in the world! Let's make a piece of art today, and hang in our house as a reminder of Jesus' love for each one of us!

- On a piece of construction paper have your child(ren) draw the outline of a heart – *parents/guardians help as needed.*
- Have your child(ren) glue either pieces of tissue paper (ripped or cut into specific shapes) or cut out shapes of different colored construction paper on the outline of the heart.
- Using the marker, have your child(ren) write either "Jesus Loves Me" or "Jesus Loves \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name here)" on the inside of the heart.
- Hang this piece of art somewhere in your house to help them always remember that Jesus loves ALL of his children!

*Activity adapted from: <http://storage.cloversites.com/waipunachapel/documents/Lesson%2024.pdf>*

## Let the Children Come

**Preschool – Red Light, Green Light**

*What you need: no supplies necessary*

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him. Jesus loves all children! Let's play a fun version of "Red Light, Green Light" together today. When I say "Come" you will move forward (like green light) but when I say "Stop!" you have to freeze (like red light).

- Keep playing until all family members reach you (the caller of Come/Stop!)
- You can repeat this game as many times as you would like.
- Once you finish the game, go back through the wondering questions for today's story.

**SAY:** Always remember that Jesus loves you and Jesus loves ALL of his children!

*Activity adapted from: <http://storage.cloversites.com/waipunachapel/documents/Lesson%2024.pdf>*

**Elementary – Jesus Loves Me (Sign Language)**

*What you need: A phone or tablet with internet connection, link listed below, and your hands/arms!*

**SAY:** Today's story reminded us of just how much Jesus loves each and every one of us! I bet you have learned the song "Jesus Loves Me" before, but today we are going to learn how to use sign language to express the love and joy in this song. We can sing this song in MANY different languages so you might want to continue learning more and learn this song in yet another language (Spanish, French, etc.). Let's learn "Jesus Loves Me" in sign language together!

- Use the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM3NKA7dOdI> to learn how to sign the song "Jesus Loves Me." Take your time, it will take a couple tries.
- Feel free to share a video of what your child(ren) signing the song "Jesus Loves Me."
- Once you have finished learning this song in sign language, go back through today's wondering questions.

**Diving Deeper – 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders – Comparing Scripture**

*What you need: Your Deep Blue Kids Bible*

**SAY:** We are going to compare two scripture lessons today. They both represent the story of "Let the Children Come to Me," but can you determine how they are similar and how they are different?

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

Once you finish reading the scripture lessons, go through the **God's Thoughts / My Thought's** on page 1123 titled "Bless You." Go through the following questions:

- When have you felt like a grown-up really wanted to hear what you had to say?
- How do you come to Jesus?

**Prayer**

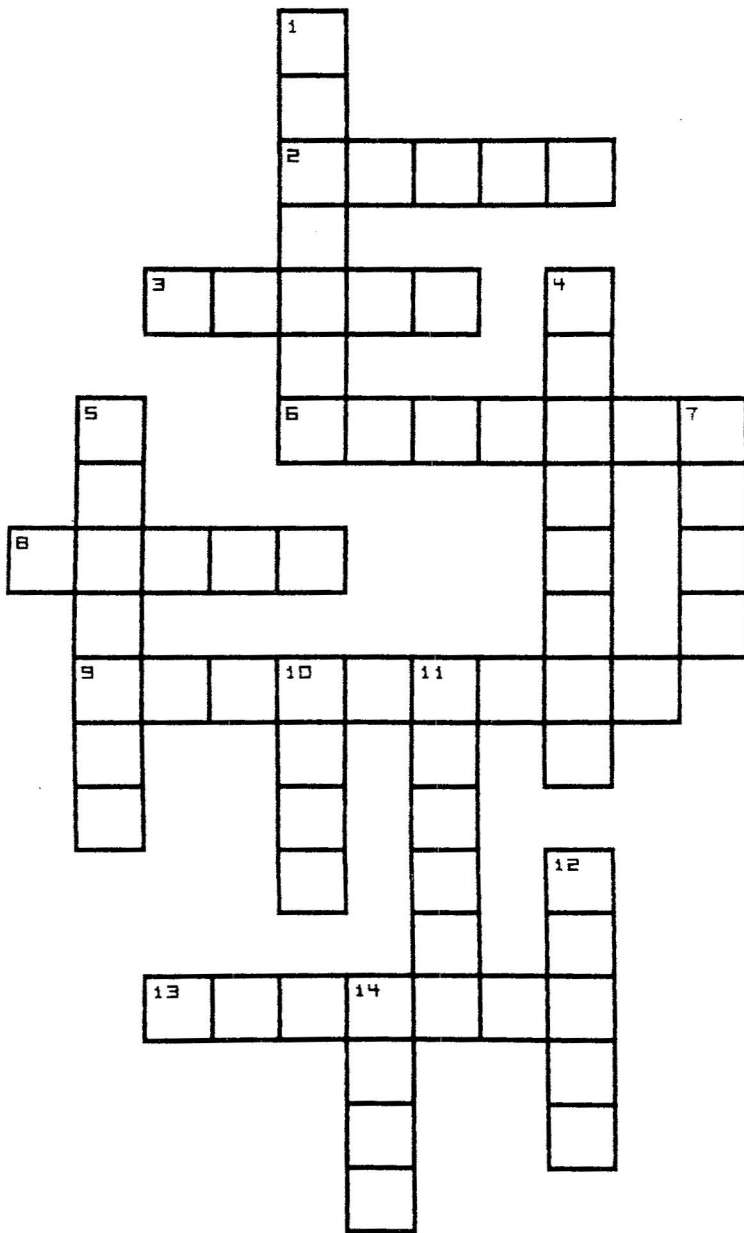
Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for caring for each one of us every day. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

BFNPEOPLEFRRBSS  
 BJTTSEANTJUKYDX  
 MHRMUKTWMUOTYCP  
 BEHYDRBNAJITTM  
 YLMTRVBTYUNIEO  
 BDJTCRRBBTMYKINGDOMTUMFRN  
 GYJRFWEVLYNCRTXELNYVIYNT  
 GUNEEHSEFTWCSNTYMAYUJKE  
 FTBYSKFSSBRWRHBQWBRIMYXSB  
 BRWRMILGSUOELUIVTGVEDBRPO  
 VBYKRYSMILHGMKRLNYOOCOME  
 BYHRRNYUITMUCONTDIMYDRBCM  
 MYFGXCRBAUNRXRTNTRMYUNRIX  
 NTNUGTBFNJUYIRGHNGETUNEAM  
 VAMTOUCHMTCRTVETENYNMYCLN  
 UIKYTRTNUYOIHDBNTRNYKIVSF  
 BTRDISCIPLESBRBHUSSBRACMS



Help the children find these words.

Angry	Away	Bless
Children	Come	Disciples
Fathers	Held	Jesus
Kingdom	Laid	Mothers
People	Special	Touch



### ACROSS CLUES

2. When we place our hand on something we \_\_\_\_ it.
3. Jesus took the children near him so he could \_\_\_\_ them.
6. The mothers and fathers knew that Jesus was \_\_\_\_.
8. Jesus became \_\_\_\_ when he heard what the disciples were doing.
9. The twelve who followed Jesus.
13. \_\_\_\_ and fathers brought the children to see Jesus.

### DOWN CLUES

1. Male parents.
4. The kingdom of God belongs to them.
5. A place where a king rules.
7. Jesus \_\_\_\_ hands on the children.
10. "Let the children \_\_\_\_ to me."
11. \_\_\_\_ followed Jesus and his disciples from town to town.
12. He said amazing things.
14. Jesus picked up the children and \_\_\_\_ them.

Angry  
Fathers  
Mothers

Bless  
Held  
People

Children  
Jesus  
Special

Disciples  
Kingdom  
Touch

Come  
Laid

*How many words can you make from  
the letters in*

**CHILDREN**




Let the Children Come



*The Kingdom of God belongs  
to the children!*

