



**From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise because of Your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.**

**Psalm 8:2**

# Out of the Mouths of Babes . . . by Rev. John Gierke

Take another look at the faith expressed out of the mouths of babes in the Bible.

## Opening Prayer

*Ab, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart, For You to dwell within my heart. Amen. "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (LSB #358, stanza 13)*

## Introduction

Read **Mark 10:13–16**. (If time allows, see also **Matthew 18:1–6** and **19:13–15**; **Luke 9:46–48** and **18:15–17**.) What was Jesus' reaction when His disciples, acting as "self-proclaimed bodyguards and schedule-keepers," tried to shoo the children away? \_\_\_\_\_

## Take Another Look

Compare Jesus' being indignant about the disciples brushing the children off as unimportant to that of the indignant chief priests and teachers of the Torah as Jesus was being praised by the children in the temple courts on Palm Sunday (**Matthew 21:12–17**). \_\_\_\_\_

Parents and grandparents blush and beam when a baby is born, and they gush and goo as the babes coo. Yet once the babes begin the journey of growing up, the attitude of many is, unfortunately, that children "should be seen and not heard." But if they and their faith are not heard, how can we older, "more mature(?)" disciples hear the childlike faith expressed by them? How can they remind us to take another look at life from the perspective of a child — of God? However, we who once were babes get older and often fall into the traps set by Satan to tempt us to outgrow, rather than to grow up in maturity (**Ephesians 4:11–16**; **Hebrews 5:11–6:3**), while retaining that childlike faith and trust in God. The enemy seeks to deceive us to rely on our reason, strength, and senses, rather than on the Holy Spirit and His work through the Word. As you dig into the Word, dig into it with the

gusto with which you dug into the dirt as a child (maybe even inwardly digested some, too)! Take another look at how these children of the King were used by God to further His kingdom.

## Mini In Size, Yet Mighty In Faith!

**Miriam, the sister of Moses:** Read **Exodus 2:1–10**. Scripture does not record Miriam's age here, nor at her death (how polite!). What does it call her (**verse 8**) when Moses was 3 months old? What does she ask (**verse 7**)? \_\_\_\_\_

How were the following people rescued because Miriam spoke to Pharaoh's daughter: Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

Miriam and the Israelite slaves? (**Exodus 14:26–31**) \_\_\_\_\_

(If time allows, see **Numbers 20:1**; **Numbers 20:22–29** and **33:38–39**; **Deuteronomy 34:5–7** for additional information on Miriam, Aaron, and Moses.)

**Naaman's wife's servant girl:** Read **2 Kings 5:1–19a**. This young Israelite girl had been taken captive by the Arameans yet served her master and his wife with love instead of bitterness. Her faith in God was certainly alive and active. How did she express this to Naaman's wife? (**verse 3**) \_\_\_\_\_

What would have happened if Naaman had dismissed this faith-full girl's words? \_\_\_\_\_

Naaman left home a leper willing to try anything to be healed; he returned home a believer in the God of Israel as the one and only God! What might Naaman have said to this young girl when he arrived home? \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine her response as well! \_\_\_\_\_

All too often, children are overlooked and considered not so important in society, even by Jesus' disciples at times — but never by Jesus!

**Paul's nephew:** Read **Acts 23:12–22**. Paul's sister's son was used by God and warned Paul of the plot against his life. Thankfully, the centurion also listened to this young man and securely transported Paul to Caesarea earlier than planned, ahead of the plotters. (If time allows, page through the rest of Acts and Paul's letters.) Who would not have heard the Gospel from Paul if he had been killed in this plot and been unable to personally speak to them or write to them while in prison? Which rulers and royalty? (**Acts 24–26; Philippians 4:22**)

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Which soldiers, sailors, and prisoners? (**Acts 27; Ephesians 6:20; Philippians 1:12–14; Colossians 4:3–10; Philemon 23**)

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Which churches and future church leaders would not have received or benefitted from Paul's letters from prison? (**Colossians 4:16** notes one church in particular that would have missed out, in addition to the letters addressed to the churches and people with their names attached. Be sure to include your own too!) \_\_\_\_\_

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We certainly owe Paul's nephew a debt of gratitude!

**Isaac:** Read **Genesis 22:1–14; John 3:16; Hebrews 11:17–19**. What did Isaac ask Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_

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What faith-full answer did Abraham give that was a prophecy to be fulfilled by God's beloved Son, Jesus, on that same mountain? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Samuel:** Read **1 Samuel 2:18–19**; and **3:1–4:1**. When God called out to this young boy serving the LORD away from his mother and father, what response did Samuel speak that would be excellent for us to imitate as we open God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Boy with five loaves of bread and two fish:** Read **John 6:1–13**, especially **verse 9**. How many people ate and were satisfied because a little boy spoke up and shared his lunch with the Lord of creation for the crowd? (**Matthew 14:21**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**David:** Don't forget young David, who stood up to giant Goliath. (Read **1 Samuel 17**.) What was David's confidence in **verse 37**? \_\_\_\_\_

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### If Time Allows

**King Joash:** Read **2 Kings 11:1–12:21; 2 Chronicles 22:10–24:27**. How old was Joash when he was crowned? How long did he reign? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Joash's primary claim to fame? \_\_\_\_\_

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What ensured Joash's following in the footsteps of his ancestor, King David? (**2 Kings 12:2; 2 Chronicles 24:2**) \_\_\_\_\_

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Unfortunately, what led to Joash's downfall and eventual assassination? (**2 Kings 12: 17–21; 2 Chronicles 24:17–22**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**King Josiah:** Read **2 Kings 22:1–23:30; 2 Chronicles 34:1–35:27**. How old was Josiah when he was crowned king? How long did he reign? \_\_\_\_\_

What faith-full things did Josiah do? (Note especially **2 Kings 23:25**.) \_\_\_\_\_

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What was the difference between Joash and Josiah as they grew and matured? \_\_\_\_\_

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What can we learn from Josiah as we grow and mature and teach our children and grandchildren the Word of the Lord and lead by example? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Closing

Now that you have taken another look at these babes in the Bible, reflect upon your faith and how God has expressed that faith through you, His baptized child, to others. How can God continue using you to encourage your children or grandchildren, and the children in your church and neighborhood, to be Jesus' witnesses who live out their faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you encourage mothers and fathers to teach their children, while remembering themselves to also be taught by God through their children? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did King David pray for his son Solomon before he sat on David's throne? (**1 Chronicles 29:18–20**) \_\_\_\_\_

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What was King Solomon's prayer in **1 Kings 3:7–9**? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, the children's friend, To each of them Your presence send; Call them by name and keep them true, In loving faith, dear Lord, to You. That caring parents, gracious Lord, And faithful teachers find reward In leading these, to whom You call, To find in Christ their all in all. That all of us, Your children dear, By Christ redeemed, may Christ revere; Lead us in joy that all we do Will witness to our love for You. Then guard and keep us to the end, Secure in You, our gracious friend, That in Your heavenly family We sing Your praise eternally. Amen. (LSB #866, stanzas 1,3,5,6; LW #470)*

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