



#59942

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME (Leader's Guide)

Introduction

"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms and blessed them." Mark 10:13-16

Luke 18:15

- What word is used to describe children? (*Babies*)
- What did Jesus do with the children, even the babies? (*Held them in His arms, touched them and blessed them. Pastors do the same today in baptism.*)

Is this reflected in other verses in Scriptures?

Matthew 28:19 (*Go make disciples, **baptize.** This is the Great Commission.*)

Acts 2:38, 39 (*Repent and be **baptized.***)

Acts 16:29-34 (*Jailer asked for **baptism** for himself and family.*)

Look again at Mark 10:13-16

- What were the disciples trying to do? (*Keep the children away to allow Jesus to rest.*)
- What words are used to describe Jesus' reaction? (*Indignant, He rebuked them.*)
- How are some adults indignant today regarding children coming to the Lord's house? (*Children's behavior upsets some.*)
- There are children today who are not learning about Jesus. List some examples of why. (*Not being baptized, not attending Sunday School, Vacation Bible School or Confirmation, social and athletic activities take priority.*)
- How can we encourage parents to bring their children to learn about Jesus?
 - *Bring our own children to be baptized and receive instruction.*
 - *Volunteer to teach so you can reach out to other children.*
 - *Be a friend to single parents or to parents who bear the sole responsibility for the spiritual training of their children.*
 - *Help make your church a family friendly place.*

- *Be faithful to your duties as a baptismal sponsor.*
- *Pray for all children – both the ones you know and those you don't know.*

How are we different from children?

1 Corinthians 13:11 (*Although we were children, we have grown in our faith.*)

Ephesians 4:14 (*Our faith grows and matures as we gain knowledge and wisdom from God.*)

Got milk? How is our spiritual nature like a child?

1 Peter 2:2, 3 (*Like babies we crave spiritual milk and our faith will grow.*)

God asks us to feed on His Word where we will find nourishment for our souls. Jesus gives life everlasting through the outstretched arms that were nailed to the cross for our sins and are open wide to all who believe in Him. He is speaking to each one of us when He says, "Come."

Closing Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we cannot thank you enough for sending Your only Son to be our Savior. You have called us to be Your children and welcome us into Your loving arms. Hold us close to You and keep us on the right path as we live each day with You. In Your mercy, we pray. Amen.

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Acts 2:38, 39

Acts 16:29-34

Read Mark 10:13-16

- What were the disciples trying to do?
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- How are some adults indignant today regarding children coming to the Lord's house?
- There are children today who are not learning about Jesus. List some examples of why.
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Closing Prayer