

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 205 The Little Children and Jesus



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES:** Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on 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. Truly I tell you, 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, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Luke 8:41-42, 49-55; Luke 12:22-23, 30-31

### What does the Bible passage tell us?

The disciples thought that they were protecting Jesus from interruptions in His busy life when they tried to stop children from going to Him. They, like many in their day and some today, thought children were unimportant. Jesus knew otherwise - that the way to enter the Kingdom of God, then and now, was to become like a little child.

If you have ever seen a field of sheep with small lambs, you may have noticed that the lambs jump and run around, obviously full of the joys of life. The adult sheep stand with heads down, eating the grass. How did the one become the other?! Children are born with so many of the qualities that Jesus wants adults to have – curiosity, trust, excitement, joy, honesty, acceptance of others and a real love of life and all it offers. As adults, we lose many of these attributes ourselves and often try to squash them in our children. Jesus says no – what the children have are 'kingdom' values and they need to be cherished.

My mother, who loved children and worked with them all her life, once said to me, 'Never turn children away; always have time for them.' This is what Jesus is saying in the passage above, and showing by taking the children in His arms and blessing them. It does us good to approach God with the simplicity of a child, knowing our heavenly Father is always there for us.

### Reflection

- Do you recognise some of the above 'kingdom values' in yourself as a child? Look at yourself now and see if you have lost some of these, perhaps through adults' attitudes towards you.
- Pray for God's healing and for His help for your future so that you can become the person He wants you to be now.
- How can you be a good role model for children today?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

