

Children of the Heavenly Father

Levels I and II Teacher's Notes

Lesson 1 • “Jesus Blesses the Little Children” Mark 10:13-16

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 1 “Jesus Blesses the Little Children”

- + Read Mark 10:13-16.
- + Read and know the **INTRODUCTION**.
- + Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- + Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- + Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- + Read and know the **APPLICATION**.

INTRODUCTION

- Has anyone told you that you are too young or too small to do something?
(Answers vary)
- Who told you that?
(Mom, Dad, brother, sister, friend, other relative, etc.)
- What were you wanting to do when they told you that you were not old enough or too small?
(Answers vary)
List these activities on the board for the students to see.
- How did it make you feel when you were told you couldn't do these things?
(Sad, disappointed, not very important)
- There are some things that you shouldn't do because you are too small or too young. Your parents or relatives want you to be safe and sometimes things aren't safe for you to do yet.
(Driving a car, using power tools)
- But sometimes adults or brothers and sisters or friends can make you feel unimportant or not special because they say you are too young or too small.
- When will you be able to do these things for sure?
(When you are older or bigger.)
- Today we are going to talk about something that you can do no matter how young or small you are.
- It is something that no one should stop you from doing because you are too young or too small.
- It is so important everyone should do it including you, little children.

Write the following words over the top and across your list of activities the children mentioned they couldn't do.

Listen to God's Word that Jesus is your Savior.

- Listening to God's Word that Jesus is our Savior is something everyone should do no matter how young or small.
- This is for little babies who can't talk or walk and for young children like you.

- Why?
(Jesus died for us and forgave us our sins.)
- Jesus says that you, young children, are important and need to hear that He is your Savior.
- Jesus loves you, no matter how young or small you are, so much that He died to take away your sins--all the bad things we do that God tells us not to do.
- In today's story some people tell little children like you that they are not important enough to see Jesus.
- This doesn't make Jesus happy.
- Jesus wants all children to hear that He died on the cross to save them from their sins. Let's listen to hear what Jesus says about little children like you.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following background information about Jesus:

- Jesus was sent to earth to save all people from their sins.
- Jesus was born as a baby and grew up just like you, but Jesus was different because He never sinned once.
- A sin is when you do something that God tells you not like telling a lie, saying "no" to your parents, or complaining about things.
- When Jesus grew up to be a man, He would tell other people that He is God and came to save them from their sins.
- Jesus was very busy preaching God's Word to people, teaching His disciples, and doing miracles.
- In a few weeks from the time of our story Jesus would go to Jerusalem where He would be arrested, crucified, die, and rise from the dead.
- Even though Jesus was busy and His thoughts were on His coming suffering and death, He shows how important it is for children to know that He died for their sins and the sins of the whole world.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- Mark 16:16 Anyone, including children, who believes and is baptized, will be saved.
 John 8:47 A child of God will want to hear God's Word.
 Romans 10:17 The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to create faith in children's hearts.
 Mark 10:14 Children need to hear that Jesus is their Savior because they are part of God's kingdom.

Jesus came to earth to save all people, including children, from their sins. Jesus knows that children are important and are part of God's kingdom.

APPLICATION

- Why did the mothers bring their children to Jesus?
(They wanted Jesus to bless them.)
- "Blessing" means God gives good things to us.
- What good things do you think Jesus would give the children?
(Answers vary: Word of God, faith, forgiveness, salvation)
- Well, if we can't think of the answer to that question, let's answer this one instead. Why did Jesus come to earth?
(To die on the cross)
- Why did He die on the cross?
(To take away our sins.)
- One thing that Jesus would give to the little children would be the forgiveness of sins.

- Another thing that Jesus probably did for the children was tell them that He was their Savior. In other words He preached the Word of God to them, and God's Word gives people faith.
- What is faith? (Trusting in Jesus as the God-Man and Savior)
- Faith is knowing or believing that Jesus is God and that He came to take away our sins.
- Jesus wanted these little children to believe that He was going to die on the cross to take away their sins.
- Why was that important for these children to know?
(*So they could go to heaven.*)
- Have your mothers taken you to see Jesus and to be blessed by Him?
(*No.*)
- You haven't gotten to see Jesus with your eyes, but every time your mother or father or someone else brings you to church or reads the Bible to you or tells you a Bible story, you are being blessed by Jesus.
- How?
(*Answers vary.*)
- When we hear about Jesus dying on the cross for us, our faith grows.
- When we learn about Jesus, we know that our sins have been taken away. We are forgiven.
- Jesus loves you and thinks you are important just like He loved the children in our story.
- Jesus wants to bless you through God's Word the Bible.
- It is important to listen when our parents, pastors, teachers, or others tell us about Jesus. When we listen we learn more about how much Jesus loves us, and how He forgave us of our sins. **THAT IS HOW JESUS BLESSES US!**
- You are God's children because Jesus died for us.
- Let's pray to Jesus thanking Him for making us Children of God by dying on the cross to save us from our sins.

Say a prayer thanking God for making us His children through faith in Jesus' death on the cross.

Lesson 2 • “Jairus’s Daughter Raised From the Dead” Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-24; 35-43

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 2 “Jairus’s Daughter Raised from the Dead”

- + Read Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-24; 35-43.
- + Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- + Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.
- + Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- + Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- + Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- + Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS: pillow and alarm clock (use for the application)

INTRODUCTION

Hold the pillow up so the class can see it.

- What do you use a pillow for? (*Sleep*)
- If I were sleeping on my pillow, could any of you wake me up? (*Yes*)
- What are some ways you could wake me up?
(*Answers vary but can include, shaking, yelling, using an alarm clock*)
- Raise your hand if you think it is easy to wake someone up if they are sleeping.
- It is pretty easy. We can make noise or shake people awake from sleep.
- Could you wake someone up if they were dead? (*No*)
- Why not?
(*They are dead, they can't hear, walk, talk, or move and we don't have power to raise them.*)
- There is a big difference between someone sleeping and someone dead.
- We can wake up a sleeping person, but we can't wake up or raise a dead person.
- Who is the only person who can wake up or raise a dead person? (*Jesus*)
- In today's story Jesus is going to show that He has so much power that He can wake up or bring a little girl back to life after she died.

Hold the pillow up so the class can see it.

- Jesus is going to say that death is like sleep.
- To Jesus it is as easy to wake or raise someone up from death as it is for you to wake someone up from sleep.
- Let's listen to our story today to see how Jesus raised this little girl from the dead.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about Jesus:

- Jesus was traveling around Israel preaching and doing many miracles.
- Jesus spent much time in Capernaum preaching and healing people.
- Jesus had done many miracles throughout the surrounding area of Capernaum so Jesus' ability to do miracles was told to many people.
- Jesus had power to heal all people because He was the Son of God.
- Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue in Capernaum and wanted Jesus' help in healing his daughter.
- Jesus showed His power over death by raising the twelve year old girl to life.

- Jesus wanted the people to listen to His words of salvation and not follow Him because of His miracles.
- Jesus' miracles are written so we may believe that Jesus is the Christ and have eternal life in Him.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

John 11:25-26 Even though believers will die physically; they will never die spiritually because of Jesus.

John 14:19 Because Jesus rose from the dead, believers will rise from the dead on Judgment Day.

John 1:4 Jesus has eternal life and He gives eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Jesus came to earth to save all people, including children, from death. Jesus gives eternal life to His Father's children.

APPLICATION

Show the alarm clock to the class.

- Raise your hands if you have an alarm clock that gets you up in the morning.
- Raise your hands if your parents get you up in the morning.
- Either your parents or your alarm clock tell you it is time to get up.
- In today's story Jesus got someone up. Who was it? (*Jairus's daughter*)
- Did Jesus use an alarm clock to get her up? (*No*)
- Jesus used His powerful word and told the little girl to get up, and she did.
- What did Jesus say Jairus's daughter was doing? (*Sleeping*)
- Was she really sleeping? (*No*)
- Then what did Jesus mean? (*He has the power to wake or raise her from the dead.*)
- To Jesus death is like a sleep because He has the power to bring dead people back to life just like He did for Jairus's daughter.
- It was as easy for Jesus to raise Jairus's daughter to life as it is for you to wake someone up from sleeping.
- Jesus showed that He had so much power over death that when He died on the cross, Jesus raised Himself from the dead.
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, He gives us a special promise. He says that He will wake us up from the dead. He will raise us from the dead.
- What will happen to each of us one day just like what happened to Jairus's daughter? (*We will die.*)
- Yes, we will die, but remember what Jesus called death? (*Sleep*)
- Jesus with all His power will raise us from our death. He will wake us up.
- Jesus won't use an alarm clock or shake us.
- He will tell us to get up just like He told Jairus's daughter.
- What will we do? (*We will get up and rise.*)
- Then where will we go? (*We will go to heaven.*)
- Why? (*Because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.*)
- Jesus will raise us from the dead and take us to heaven with Him because He loves us, He died on the cross to take away our sins, and He rose from the dead.
- To Jesus death is like sleep and He will wake us up to go to heaven with Him.
- Let's pray to Jesus thanking Him for having power over death and promising that He will raise us from the dead because He died to save us from our sins, and because He rose from the dead.

Say a prayer thanking Jesus for defeating death and promising to raise us from the dead because of His work.

Lesson 3 • “The Slave Girl and Naaman” II Kings 5:1-14

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 3 “The Slave Girl and Naaman”

- + Read II Kings 5:1-14.
- + Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- + Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.
- + Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- + Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- + Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- + Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS:-picture of leprosy

INTRODUCTION

- What is the worst sickness you have ever had? *(Answers vary)*
- How did you feel when you were sick? *(Answers vary)*
- What did you do to make yourself better? *(Go to the doctor, get medicine)*
- What is the first and best thing we can do when we get sick? *(We can pray.)*
- Why should we do that? *(God is able to help us.)*
- Sometimes when we get sick and we pray to God, He heals us. Sometimes He doesn't heal us. But no matter what God loves us and He wants us to pray to Him for help. He promises that He will turn our sickness into the best thing for us.

Show the picture of leprosy to the class.

- This is a terrible disease called leprosy. It is disease someone can get on their skin. It turns their skin white and parts of their nose, cheeks, or lips can get bad scabs and fall off.
- A man in our story today named Naaman got this disease.
- Who should he go to for help? *(God)*
- Why? *(God can heal Naaman of his disease.)*
- The problem was that Naaman didn't believe in God. He didn't know that He should pray to God for help to heal him of his leprosy.
- But God used a little girl about your age to tell Naaman about God so that Naaman could be healed.
- Let's listen to our story today to hear how God used a little girl to tell Naaman that God could not only heal him of his leprosy, but God could also help him in a better way.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information:

- This story takes place many years before Jesus was even born.
- At this time Israel was separated into two groups or kingdoms.
- There was a king in the northern kingdom or top part called King Joram (Jehoram) and a king in the southern kingdom or bottom part.
- Another country called Syria with their king, King Benhadad, would come to attack King Joram of Israel.
- King Benhadad of Syria had a commander of his army named Naaman who had leprosy.

- Leprosy was a white skin disease that would eat away parts of people's noses, cheeks or lips leaving scabs.
- On one trip to attack Israel, Naaman captured a young Israelite girl to keep as slave in his house.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- Matt. 5:16 Show others your faith by doing good things so they can believe in God and praise Him also.
- 1 Peter 3:15 Always be ready to tell others that you believe in Jesus your Savior.
- 1 Tim. 2:4 God wants all people to know Jesus and be saved.
- Luke 19:10 Jesus came to the earth to find sinners and save them from their sin.

The Father's children tell others that Jesus came to the earth to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world.

APPLICATION

Show the picture of leprosy to the class.

- This is a pretty bad disease.
- There was no doctor or medicine that could cure Naaman of his leprosy.
- Who was the only one who could cure Naaman? *(God)*
- Leprosy would be a big problem to have, but did you know you and I have a bigger problem than leprosy?
- What is our biggest problem? *(Sin)*
- What is sin? *(Breaking God's Commandments)*
- Sin is when we do things that God tells us not to do. We sin when we say "no" to our parents. We sin when we complain, tell lies, or fight with our brothers/sisters or friends.
- Who is the only one who can fix our biggest problem of sin? *(God)*
- How did He fix this problem of sin? *(He sent Jesus to die on the cross to save us from our sins.)*
- In our story today, Naaman didn't know God was able to help him. Who told Naaman that God would be able to help him? *(The little slave girl)*
- We call the little girl a missionary. A missionary is a person who tells others about God's love.
- What happened to Naaman because the little slave girl told Naaman about God? *(He was healed and he believed in God.)*
- Not only was Naaman healed of his big problem of leprosy, but he had his biggest problem, sin, taken away also.
- How can we be like the little slave girl? *(Answers vary)*
- We can be a missionary. We can tell other people that God loved them so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away their sins.
- Who can you tell about Jesus dying on the cross for their sins? *(Parents, brothers and sisters, family members, friends, everyone)*
- God wants us to tell others about Jesus.
- We want to tell others about Jesus because we love Him, and He took away all our sins.
- Because Jesus died for us, we will go to heaven.
- When we tell others about Jesus dying on the cross and they believe, they will go to heaven also.
- Let's pray to Jesus asking Him to help us tell others about Him dying on the cross to save everyone from our sins.

Say a prayer asking for help to tell others about Jesus' love.

Lesson 4 • “The Boy King Josiah” II Kings 22:1-11; 23:1-7, 10, 21-25

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 4 “The Boy King Josiah”

- + Read II Kings 22:1-11; 23:1-7, 10, 21-25.
- + Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- + Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.
- + Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- + Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- + Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- + Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

MATERIALS: crown a king would wear and Bible (use for application)

INTRODUCTION

Show the crown to the class.

- What is this? (*Crown*)
- Who wears a crown? (*King*)
- What does a king do? (*He rules people or tells them what to do.*)
- Raise your hand if you would like to be King of the Room.

Choose a child to wear the crown and ask the student and the class some questions.

- You are King of the Room. You make the rules. What rule would you make?
(*Answers vary, but probably will include something that benefits himself or herself.*)
- Why did you pick that rule?
(*Answers vary, but probably because it is good or fun for him or her.*)

Take the crown from the student.

- Did the rule [*name the student who was King*] made---help himself or help other people?
(*Answers vary*)
- Sometimes kings make rules that only help themselves and not others.
- Good kings make rules that help everybody and that do things that God likes.
- Could a young child like [*name the student who was King*] become a real King?
(*Answers vary*)
- It isn't usual for a young child to become king because little children are small and can't take care of themselves much less make rules to help a lot of people.
- But in today's story we will hear about a boy who was eight years old when he became king.
- This boy's name was Josiah, and he ruled over God's people in Judah.
- Let's listen today to see if Josiah made good rules that helped everybody and did things that God liked, or if Josiah made rules that only helped himself and did things that God didn't like.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information:

- This story takes place many years before Jesus was even born.
- Remind the students that this story takes place after yesterday's story.
- At this time Israel was separated into two groups or kingdoms.

- There was a king in the northern kingdom or top part of Israel and a king in the southern kingdom or bottom part called Judah.
- All of the kings in the northern kingdom of Israel were bad and worshiped false gods called idols.
- Many kings in the southern kingdom of Judah were bad also and worshiped false gods called idols.
- This made God angry because He wants people to worship Him only (1st Commandment: You shall have no other gods.”
- Josiah’s grandfather, Manasseh, was a bad king who worshiped false gods and made bad rules that made other people worship false gods.
- Josiah’s father, Amon, was a bad king who worshiped false gods and made bad rules that made other people worship false gods.
- Amon was killed when he was king.
- Then Josiah became king when he was only eight years old.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

Matt. 5:16 Show others your faith by doing good things so they can believe in God and praise Him also.

I John 1:8-9 We need to say we are sorry for our sins. Jesus forgives us because He died for us.

Ps. 51:17 God wants us to repent (say we are sorry) of our sins.

Matt. 22:37 We should love God above all things.

The Father’s children serve Jesus in their daily lives.

APPLICATION

Show the Bible to the class.

- What is this? (*Bible*)
- Another name for the Bible is God’s Word. In our story today God’s Word was called the Book of the Law.
- When Josiah was first king, not many people knew about God’s Word or the Book of the Law.
- Many people didn’t read it. Many priests or pastors didn’t use it.
- The King, Josiah, didn’t know about it.
- Josiah didn’t know what God wanted him to do because he hadn’t read God’s Word.
- But you know what this book is. Why?
(*We’ve seen it before, heard it read before, etc.*)
- Where do you hear the Bible?
(*At home, in school, in church*)
- Why is the Bible important?
(*It tells us about Jesus dying on the cross for us.*)
- God’s Word is important for us to read and hear because it tells us about Jesus.
- What does it say about Jesus?
(*He died on the cross to save us from our sins.*)
- When we learn about Jesus our faith gets stronger, and we learn what God wants us to do.
- It makes God happy when we hear His Word and read it because God’s Word forgives us our sins and saves us.
- That is why it is important to come to church so we can hear God’s Word.
- That is why it is important to listen at home when your family reads God’s Word.
- That is why it is important to pay attention in school when your teachers are telling you about God’s Word.
- Many people in Josiah’s day forgot about God’s Word and didn’t read it or listen to it.

- Many people today forget about God's Word and don't read it or listen to it.
- Why is that dangerous?
(You won't learn about Jesus and how you are saved.)
- We need to be like Josiah. We need to use God's Word.
- What should we do with it?
(Read it, preach it, listen to it)
- Let's pray to Jesus asking Him to help us use His Word by reading it, preaching it, and listening to it.

Say a prayer asking for help to use God's Word in our lives.

Lesson 5 • “David and Goliath” I Samuel 17:3-11

PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 5 “David and Goliath”

- + Read I Samuel 17:3-11.
- + Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- + Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- + Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- + Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- + Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

INTRODUCTION

Pick the smallest student to come to the front to stand next to you.

- Who is taller? *(Teacher)*
- If we were to run a race, who would win? *(Teacher)*
- Why? *(Bigger and faster)*
- If we were to see who could lift the heaviest object, who would win? *(Teacher)*
- Why? *(Bigger and stronger)*
- What if we had the same contests, but instead of me we had a man 10 feet tall?
(Show how tall 10 feet is in relation to some other object like the ceiling, tree, etc.)
- Who would win then? *(Giant)*
- Why? *(Really bigger, faster, and stronger)*
- In today’s story we will hear about a boy who is going to fight against a man 10 feet tall.
- Who do you think will win? *(Man 10 feet tall)*
- Why? *(He is bigger and stronger.)*
- But the man 10 feet tall doesn’t win.
- Let’s listen today to find out how the boy wins even though he is smaller and weaker than the man.

BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information:

- This story takes place when God gave the Israelites their first king, King Saul.
- At that time the Israelites were constantly being attacked by a group of people called the Philistines.
- The Israelites and the Philistines were at war with each other.
- God told the prophet Samuel, God’s preacher, to go to Bethlehem to Jesse’s house to select the next king of Israel because King Saul disobeyed God and didn’t love Him.
- Jesse had eight sons, but God selected the youngest son David, the shepherd boy, to be the next king.
- King Saul did not know that David was chosen by God to be the next king of Israel.
- The Philistines had camped by a valley ready to attack the Israelites when David came to check on his brothers who were fighting in King Saul’s army.

KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY

- Eph. 6:10-18 Put on God’s armor to protect ourselves from all evil.
- Ps. 34:7-8 We should trust in the Lord for He is good!
- Ps. 37:5 We should trust in the Lord, and He will help us.

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| Ps. 124:8 | God made the heavens and the earth so He will help us. |
| Jer. 17:5 | God does not want us to trust in ourselves. |
| Phil.4:13 | With God on our side we can do anything. |
| Rom. 8:31-39 | God is with us, nothing can stop us. |
| I Peter 5:6-7 | Pray to God and trust in Him because the devil is trying to attack us. |
| Prov. 3:5 | We should trust in the Lord and not in ourselves. |

Jesus protects His children from all evil.

APPLICATION

- David was a small boy, but he had a big problem. What was it? (*Goliath*)
- Who would we expect to win the battle, Goliath who was big and strong, or David who was small and young? (*Goliath*)
- Who won the battle? (*David*)
- How could David defeat the much bigger and stronger Goliath? (*God gave Him strength.*)
- Even though Goliath was much bigger, David had God on his side. With God fighting for David, David was much stronger.
- David prayed to God and trusted that God would help him defeat Goliath.

- We have problems in our lives also.
- Sometimes our problems are like Goliath. They seem really big. They seem like they will defeat us.
- What is the biggest problem we have? (*Sin*)
- We sin everyday and our sin is so big that we can't defeat it.
- Our sin is big like Goliath.
- We can't defeat sin.
- Who did David pray to and trust in to defeat Goliath? (*God*)
- Who can we pray to and trust in to defeat our problems? (*God*)
- How did God defeat our biggest problem of sin?
(*He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away our sins.*)
- Since God defeated our biggest problem of sin by sending Jesus to die on the cross for us, what will He also do with all the other problems we have in our life?
(*He will help us with them.*)
- When we are afraid of things, worried, or don't know what to do, we should pray to Jesus. He promises to help us.
- Why can Jesus help us? (*He is so powerful He can help us with anything.*)
- Jesus promises to protect us from all our problems.
- Let us pray to Jesus asking to protect us from all our problems and thanking Him for taking away our biggest problem of sin.

Say a prayer asking for Jesus' protection and thanking Him for taking away our sin.