

KIDS MINISTRY

Your family may enjoy acting this story out. One person can pretend to be Jesus, one or more people can be disciples, and one or more people can be children. It will be especially fun if the adults in the family pretend to be the children in the story and the children take the roles of Jesus and disciples.

Ask: Why the disciples did not want parents to bring children to Jesus? Explain that we don't know for sure, but it might be that they thought the children were not important enough for Jesus to notice them.

Emphasize: The disciples were not right about this at all! Children are very important to Jesus. Read verse 16 again to emphasize how much children matter to Jesus.

Remind: Each one of them is very important to Jesus, but so are all other children.

Discuss: In what ways can your family show the love of Jesus to other children?

Pray that Jesus will use your family in this way.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Why did the disciples try to stop parents from bringing "even infants" to Jesus?

I think the answer is hidden in the hope of the people bringing the children that Jesus would "touch them." Typically Jesus' touch connotes healing, which may mean that the infants weren't the rosy-faced cherubs of so many stained-glass windows, but rather were sickly, and perhaps very sickly. For this reason, as Luke describes, people brought even infants – Jesus had healed all manner of people, and so heart-sick parents dared to bring even their most sickly children that Jesus might touch them.

1. Yet Jesus will not stand for it. "Let the children come unto me," he commands. Even the sick children. Actually, make that especially the sick children. For it is to people just like this – diseased, vulnerable, and in need – that the kingdom of God belongs.
- 2.
3. Should we be surprised? Jesus has spoken of bringing hope to the hopeless, healing to the sick, and freedom to those who are bound by all manner of things since his first sermon in Nazareth. At this point of his career, as he approaches the city of his destiny, he will not be hindered, even by well-meaning disciples.
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5. Have you ever felt that the Lord might not welcome you?
6. Do you ever think of any group of people as a bother to you?
7. What does Jesus' life teach us about being around people?
What is so special about little children?

List ten qualities of childlikeness that we should all express.

Do you love to be around younger siblings? Why or why not?

What does Jesus' example teach us about loving others?