

GRADES
K-6

JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

Printable Lesson Kit



M **GHTY MESSAGES**

THANK YOU

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JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

LESSON OVERVIEW



JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN MIGHTY MESSAGE

A number of gospel passages mention Jesus greeting children and teaching about them. This lesson combines four passages about children and will teach kids that God is completely interested in them and finds them special. Jesus's disciples tried to keep the children away, thinking the Lord was too busy. But Jesus told them to let the children come!



How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Craft: Flipbook
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Stopwatch or smartphone timer (game)
- Candy prizes (game; optional)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

EXCERPTS FROM MATTHEW & MARK (NIV)

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



MATTHEW 18:2-5

- ² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.
³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.



MATTHEW 18:10-14

- ¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. [“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”]
¹² “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?
¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.
¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.



MARK 9:36-37

- ³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,
³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”



MARK 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Questions for Children about the Birth of Jesus:

1. Jesus said in the first passage that adults must become like you to enter the kingdom of heaven. There is a lot to be said for adult wisdom. Jesus also teaches obedience to parents. But what's special about children that God would want adults to imitate them? **A: Children have more faith or easier faith. They submit to authority and parents, like adults need to submit to Christ's will. Children forgive more easily and don't nurse grudges as easily.**

2. Jesus makes a remarkable claim in Matthew 18:10. What is it? **A: I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. Angels surrounding you are constantly seeing both you and God.** What does that tell you about God hearing your prayers? What does that tell you about God understanding your needs?

3. Look at the parable of the lost sheep that follows in Matthew 18. What does it say? **A: If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. Any of us can get into sinful habits or sinful periods of our lives.** Should we be afraid to approach God if this happens to us? Why or why not?



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

You will hear your favorite adults at home and in Sunday school say until the Second Coming: God is always watching and hears all your prayers. You will hear adults say that children are very special to him, and they'll give a dozen different reasons why.

So, then, why doesn't he answer more prayers "Yes?" Each year as we grow, we see that our list of prayers answered "No" or "not answered at all" grows longer. Why is that?

Once our lives are transformed by Christ, we have a marvelous opportunity to grow in him. We listen to what the Holy Spirit tells our hearts. We listen to what Christ said in the Bible. One thing he said consistently is that happiness doesn't come from getting. It comes from giving. Our lives should become more and more about giving as we grow.

When we are tied into the Holy Spirit and God's will daily, we become less likely to pray for things like "God, help my team win!" (A loving heart would also think of the people on the other team, some of whom probably prayed "make my team win!")

As your prayers become less self-centered and more Christ-centered, the less likely you are to pray for things out of his will. You will get more yesses—and you will find that ironically, you will be truly happy.



JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

PRINTABLE CRAFT



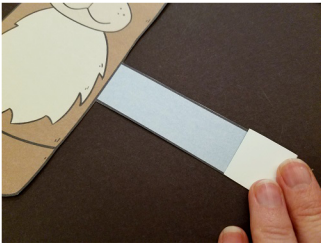
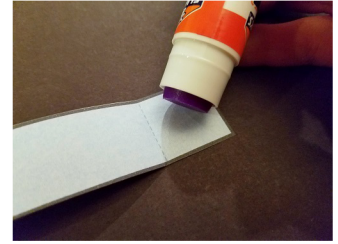
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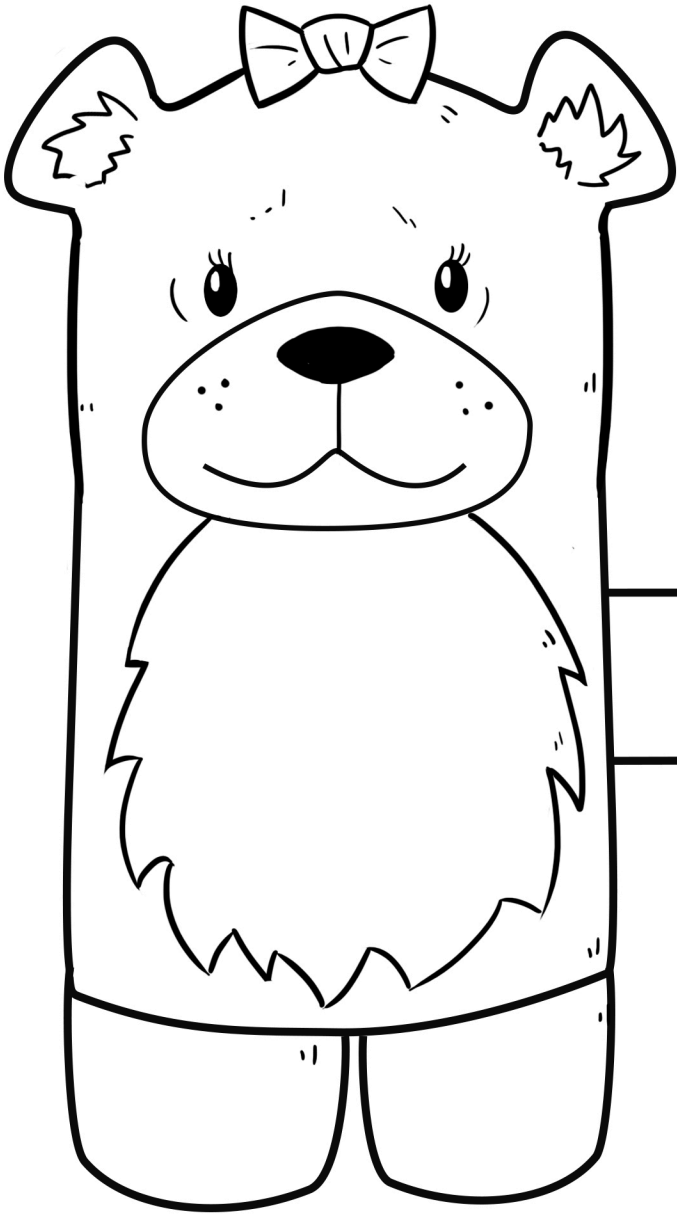
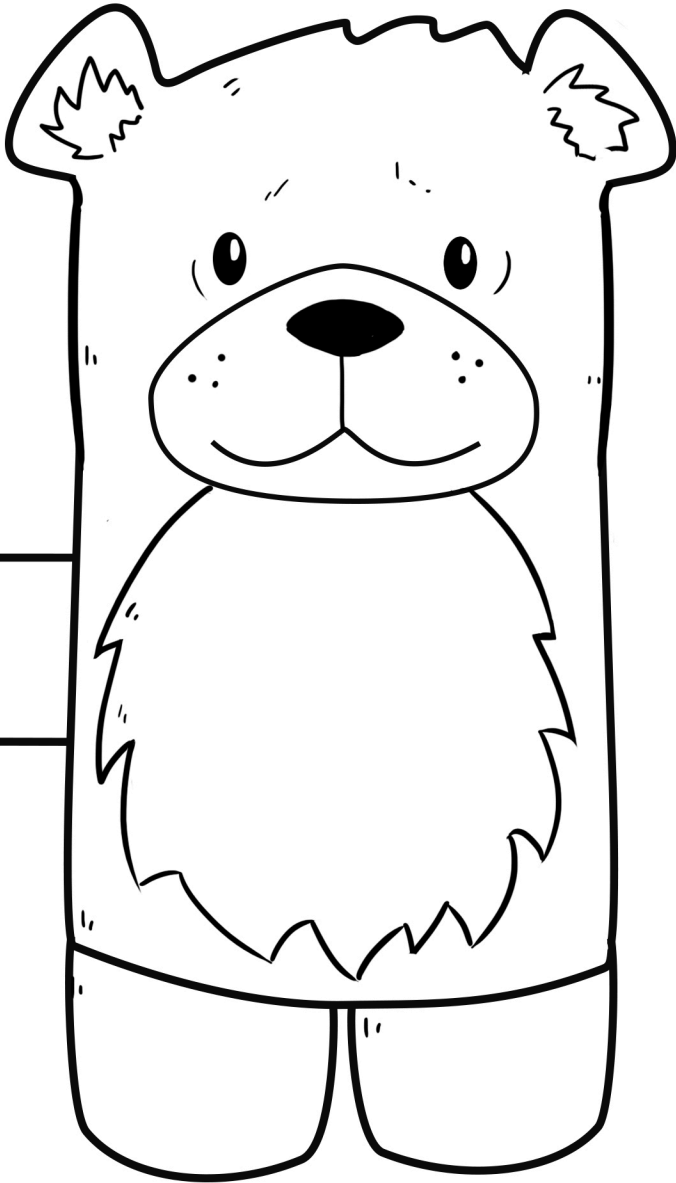
- White paper or card stock
- Coloring utensils (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue

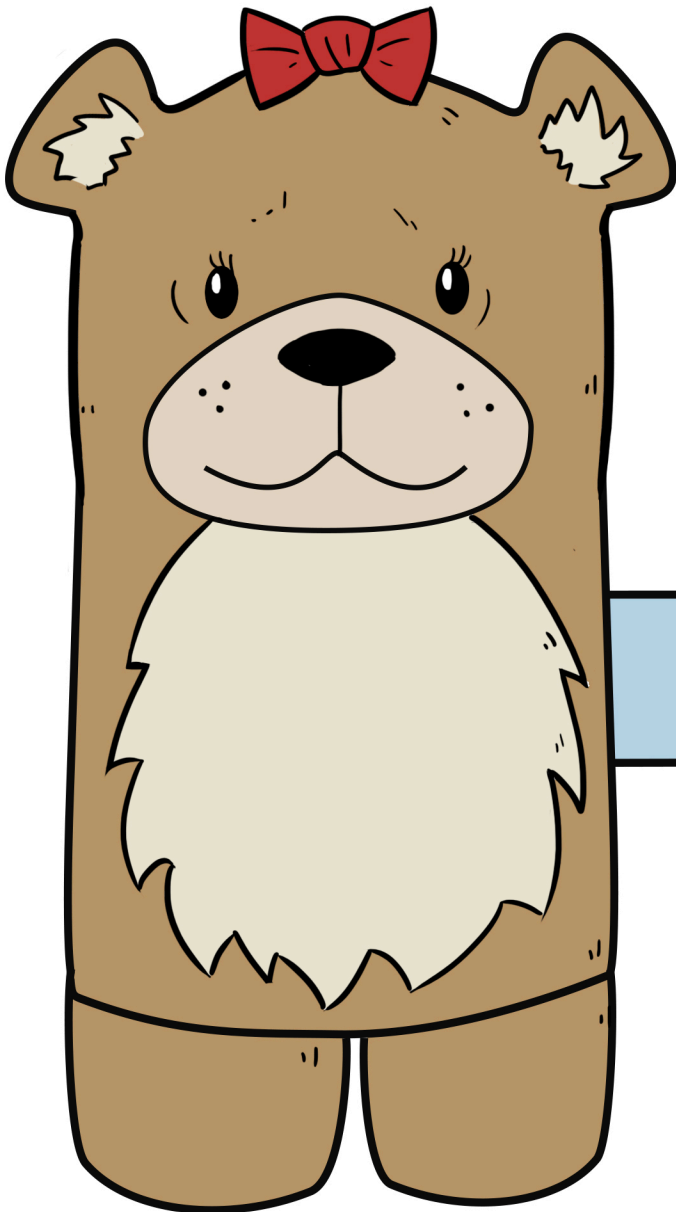
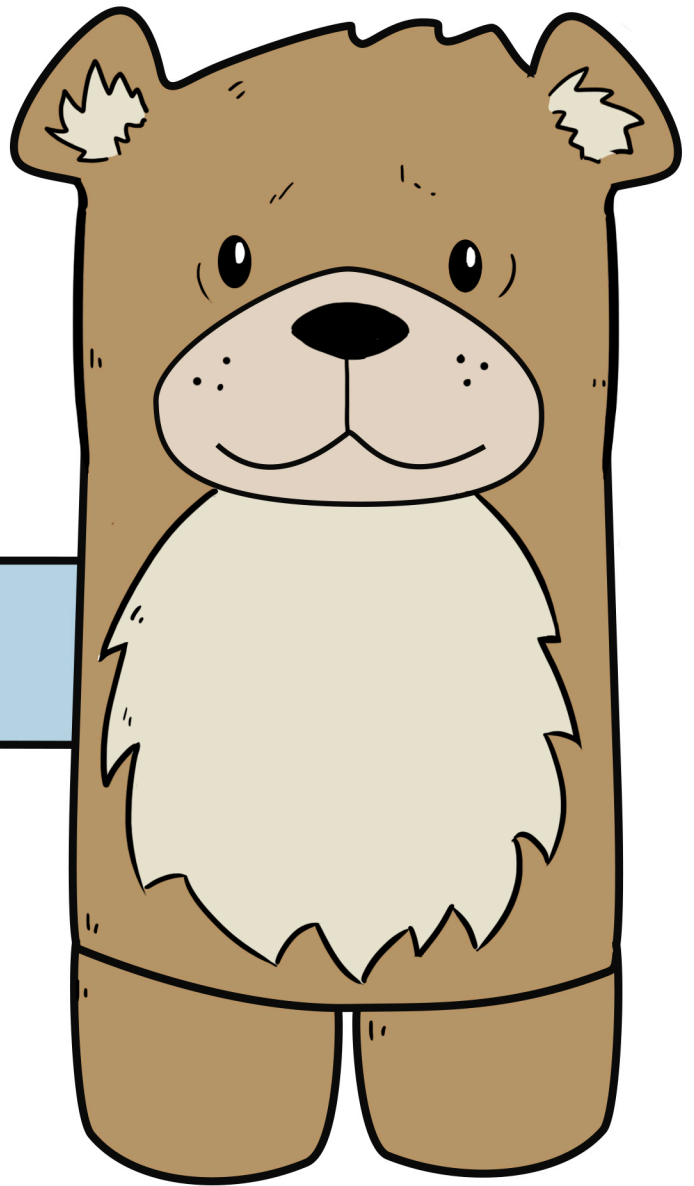


INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print the Love Bear templates on white paper or card stock.
2. **Optional:** If printing the black and white template, color as desired.
3. Cut out the bear and heart templates.
4. Fold the heart templates in half and cut along the marked line. Set aside.
5. Fold the tab back on the bear "arm".
6. Apply glue to the tab and wrap the arm across the body of the bear, securing on the other side.
7. Slide the heart onto the arm as shown.







SHOWING LOVE TO FRIENDS

Jesus was remembered because he showed love to people and made them feel special. This game will teach the art of listening, in order to be like Christ and make friends feel special.



MATERIALS:

- Stopwatch or smartphone timer
- Candy prizes (optional)

INTRODUCTION

Those children in the Bible sure were fortunate—to get to meet Jesus, get a hug, or even sit on his lap! Yet he is today just as close to us as he was to them. He wants us to share his love with others. One of the best ways to show love is by showing an interest in others. Really LISTEN to them. Let's play a game where interest shows love and love listens.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Match students up in pairs.
2. Have one student in each pair tell his partner five facts about himself in 60 seconds. They can include birth date, street address, ancestry, favorite dish, favorite movie, favorite snack—anything the teller wants to reveal. The other must show interest by listening carefully.
3. After 60 seconds, stop the first student from telling more.
4. Have the listeners go around and take turns to see who can repeat all five facts. Remind the listeners to keep thinking of the facts in their heads when other listeners go before them!
5. Give a candy prize to the student who can remember all the facts.
6. Switch partners and repeat as many times as you wish.

Color by Numbers!

1 = Brown

3 = Red

5 = Green

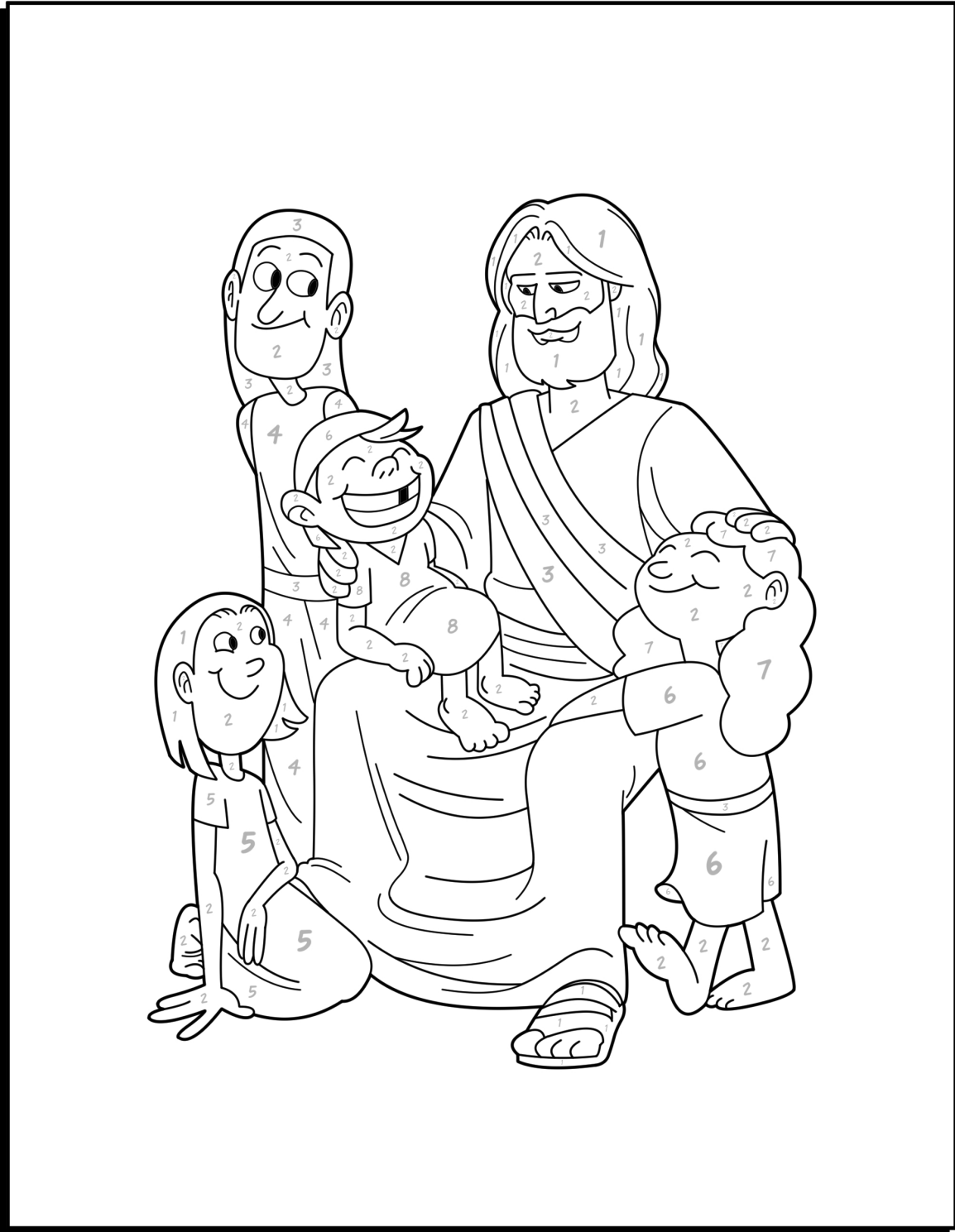
7 = Black

2 = Skin tone

4 = Purple

6 = Light blue

8 = Orange



Jesus loves the little children.

Luke 18



WORD SEARCH

Jesus loves all children. He receives them into his kingdom because of his love. But he hopes his love will help children behave in right ways. Find all the words that describe what Christ wants from us in the word-search puzzle.

O	T	Y	H	Y	J	K	U	H	O	P	E	W	L	D	H
V	D	O	U	P	H	G	G	U	S	V	K	U	U	X	N
E	N	I	S	E	R	V	E	Z	X	M	A	T	U	R	E
R	Q	G	B	K	D	U	F	W	K	A	R	R	I	S	W
C	B	I	D	N	L	M	E	N	J	W	E	H	N	B	E
O	J	E	E	R	I	Y	A	Y	H	O	J	M	V	H	Y
M	N	F	L	S	R	H	V	M	I	R	O	Y	E	L	L
E	E	L	E	I	T	L	O	V	E	S	I	L	S	E	W
D	Q	C	U	P	E	H	P	O	U	H	C	T	T	M	C
E	A	H	W	X	R	V	E	E	H	I	E	B	I	P	A
I	P	S	E	E	K	A	E	L	R	P	V	T	G	A	R
R	X	Z	A	L	S	I	Y	C	P	S	I	R	A	T	E
S	Y	M	P	A	T	H	I	Z	E	A	I	H	T	H	M
A	A	J	G	X	T	M	D	G	W	B	W	S	E	I	F
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	K	P	H	M	J	Q	T	Z	V
A	R	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E	S	Q	S	P	E	T

Words to Find:

**BELIEVE
CARE
DEFEND
EMPATHIZE
FORGIVE**

**HELP
HOPE
INVESTIGATE
LOVE
MATURE**

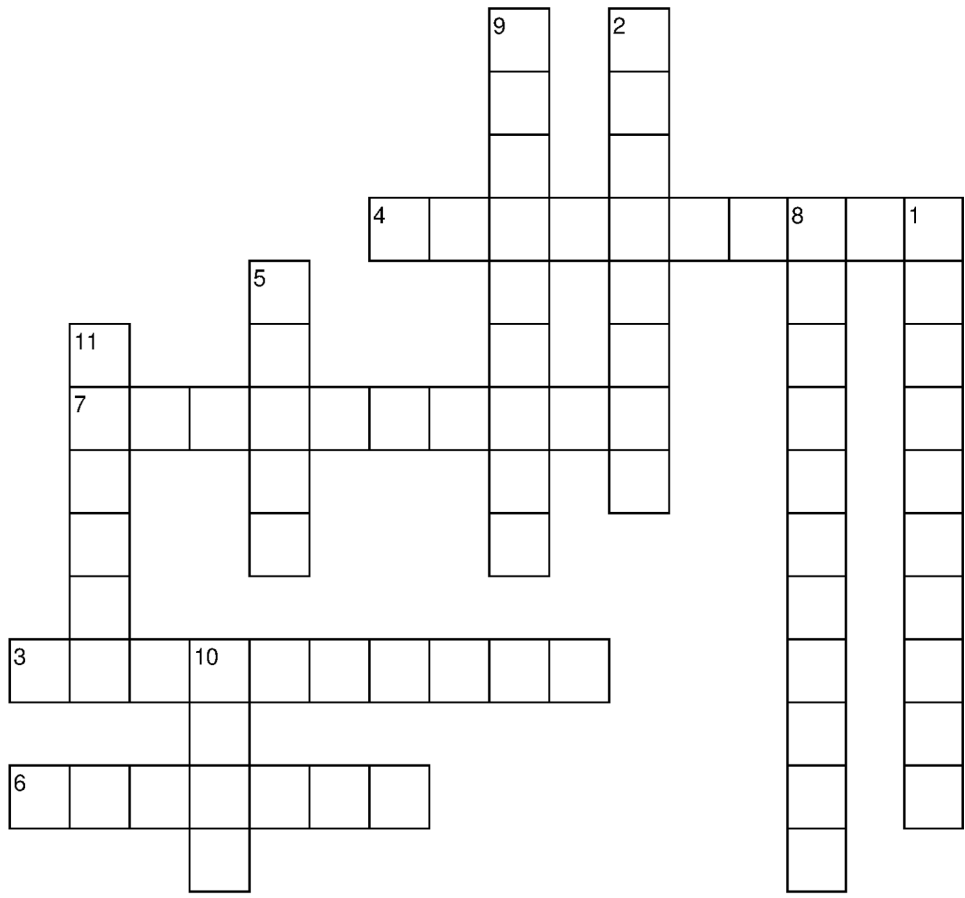
**OVERCOME
PERSIST
PRACTICE
PRAY
REJOICE**

**SEEK
SERVE
SYMPATHIZE
THANK
WAIT
WORSHIP**



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your Reference Sheet (page 14) to fill in the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 3. Psalm 8:2 says praise of children establishes this
- 4. Proverbs 13:24 says parents who love are careful to do this
- 6. Proverbs 17:6 says these are the pride of children
- 7. Colossians 3:20 says children should obey parents in this

Down

- 1. Ephesians 6:4 says fathers should not do this
- 2. Psalm 127:3 says children are this
- 5. John 16:21 says a woman has sorrow while giving this
- 8. Proverbs 1:8 says to listen to this
- 9. Psalm 127:3 says this is a reward
- 10. Ephesians 6:1 says children should do this
- 11. Proverbs 22:6 says when children are old they will not...



Scriptures to Read: Matthew 10:13-16



This Week We Learned About ...

Four passages about children were presented to teach the children that God is completely interested in them and finds them special. Jesus's disciples tried to keep children away, thinking the Lord was too busy. But Jesus told them to let the children come!



✓ Questions for Kids:

1. Why do you think the disciples rebuked the people for bringing Jesus their children? **They thought he was too busy/important for children**
2. How did Jesus react? **He grew indignant and said "Let them come to me!"**
3. What does this tell you about how Jesus feels about children? **He loves them and sees them as special.**

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

In Jesus' day certain people were seen as important while others were not. Jesus clearly didn't see it the same way. Can you think of people in modern times who are seen as unimportant? How do you think we should treat them?

The bible says not to let anyone judge you because you are young. Discuss some ways kids can serve God in their daily lives in spite of their young ages.

Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:36-37



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."

Mark 10:14



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



REFERENCE SHEET

Below are all the other verses specifically about children from the Old and New Testaments, save the ones read in the lesson. Use them to find out and remember who you are in God's eyes.

Psalm 127:3-4

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Psalm 8:2

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 1:8-9

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Proverbs 17:6

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Proverbs 13:24

Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

John 16:21

When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.



LEARNING LOOKUPS



JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

Lookup: Proverbs 17:6 and write it down.

Lookup: Proverbs 1:8-9 and write it down.

Children often want their parents to be proud of them. Name some things below about your parents that make you proud of them.

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask him to show you people you can support, compliment, build up, and stand up for this week. If he gives you any names, write them down.

JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

QUIZ

Learn more about Jesus meeting children by completing the lookups and answering the questions on the quiz.

CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

1. Jesus was talking to grownups about children in Matthew 18. What he means in verse 3 is that

- a. adults should become immature
- b. adults should trust God more
- c. kids should stop growing

2. In verse 4, Jesus talks about the “lowly” position of a child being good. He is talking about having the virtue of

- a. humility
- b. honesty
- c. courage
- d. equality

3. Some adults find kids annoying because they have lots of energy and don’t think quite like adults. Jesus uses this word in Matthew 18:10 to describe their feeling:

- a. dislike
- b. ignore
- c. despise
- d. tolerate

4. The same verse implies that you have these with you most of the time:

- a. luck
- b. angels
- c. fairies
- d. doves

5. When we behave badly, God compares it to (Matthew 18:12-13)

- a. a dog that bites
- b. a bird that flies freely
- c. a sheep that gets lost

6. When we develop bad ways, Matthew 18:12-14 says that God

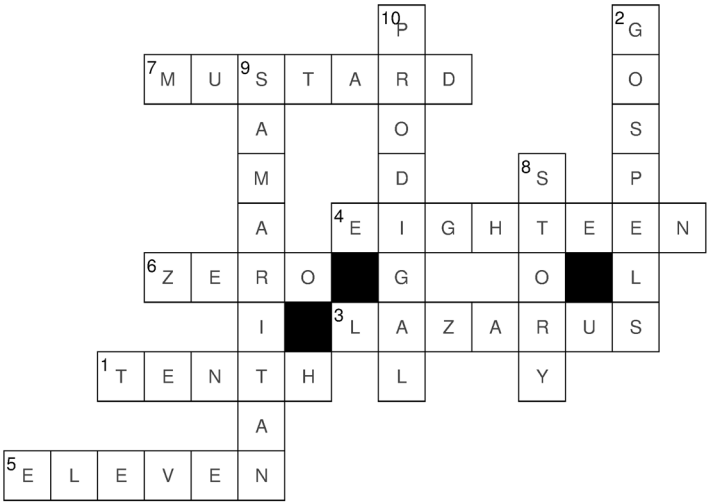
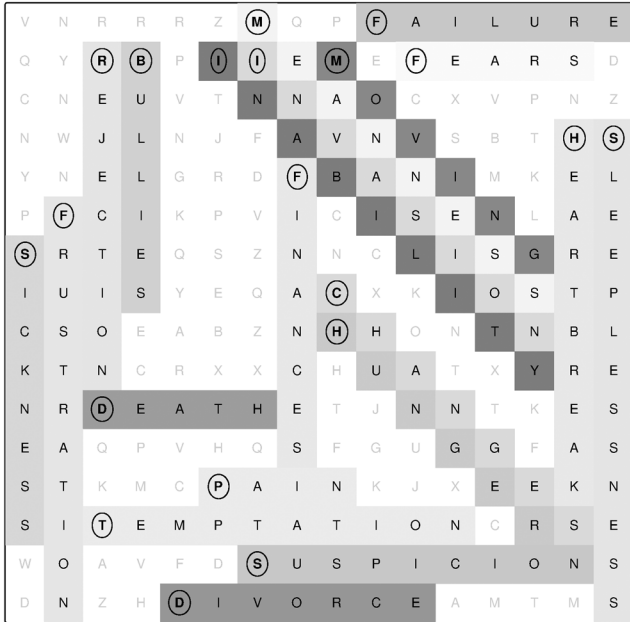
- a. gets really mad
- b. turns away from us
- c. seeks to bring us back

7. Jesus made his statement in Mark 9:36-37 because a lot of adults didn’t like having kids around. But Jesus compares loving a child to loving

- a. their parents
- b. God
- c. their enemies

8. In Mark 10:15, Jesus mentions the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is different than the Kingdom of Heaven, which is a physical place we will go after we die. The Kingdom of God is currently all around us right now. It is the angels, the Holy Spirit, and God doing work on this earth with our help. When Jesus said we all have to receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, he means we must

- a. cry like babies
- b. believe in it without doubting
- c. suck our thumbs



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JESUS MEETS THE CHILDREN

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



NAME:

DATE: