

## Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus was truly a different kind of leader, savior, Messiah. The Jews and even the disciples did not expect a man of peace to come and save all mankind. They actually thought the Messiah would be like David, a great king who rode a big horse and could swing a big sword to slay the enemies of the Lord and the people of Israel. Well, they got the Prince of Peace instead. He spoke in ways that confused them. He spoke about love and putting your life in peril for others and following God by putting God first before your family and friends.

The disciples saw children gathering around him and they tried to shoo them away. Children were not highly regarded in Jesus time. They were to do as they were told and stay out of the way. But Jesus told them that the children gathered around him were special and he blessed them. He told the disciples that all adults need to have the loving attitude of children and that they would then receive the blessings of the kingdom of God.

It is true that you are special as a child, but you need to give honor and respect to your parents and do as they tell you the first time. Your parents don't need to argue with you, they don't need to make a deal with you or give you your way. They need to tell you what to do and when to do it for your own good. You need to obey. This is the same as Jesus said. Have the attitude and heart like a child in order to inherit the kingdom of God, but he also knew the commandments of God that state, "Honor your Father and Your Mother."

### **Question Time:**

1. In Jesus time, were children the main focus of the parents and did the parents spend all their time on what a child wanted first?
2. Should children obey their parents on the first, second or third request to perform a task or chore?
3. What is the attitude and heart that all adults should have in order to inherit the kingdom of God?

**Scripture: Mark 10:13 – 16**

## The Little Children and Jesus

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

**Next Steps:** Ask your parents to create a list of the things they expect you to do each day, without fail. Every day, check the list to make sure you have accomplished those tasks that are expected of you. You should say to mom and dad, "I don't need an allowance for doing what I am expected to do as part of this family, but if I go above and beyond, I would like some consideration."