

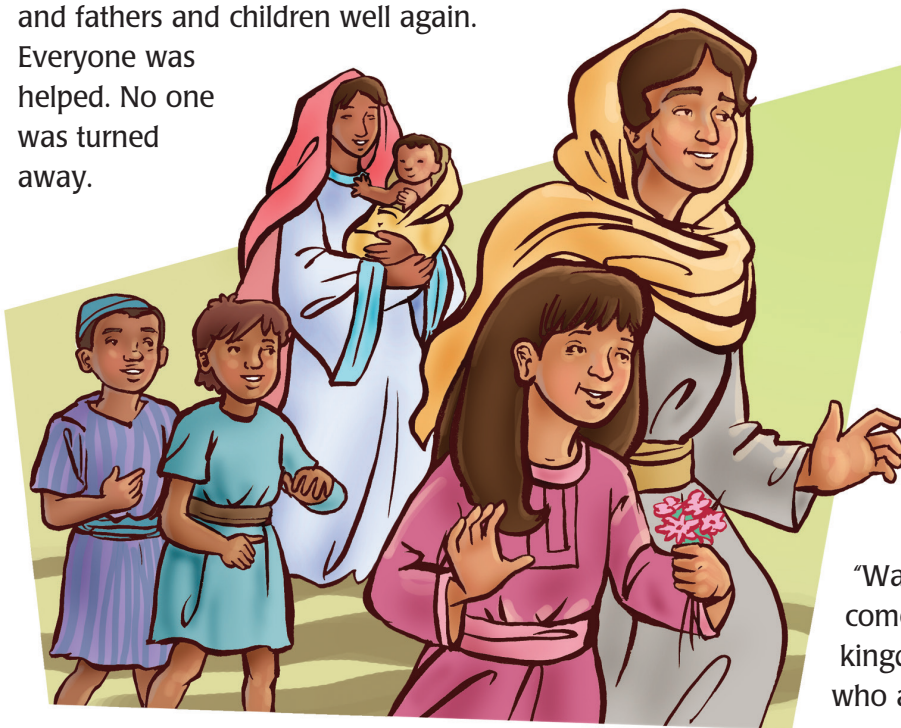
Let the Children Come

Luke 18:15-17; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 511-517

Can you remember a time when an important visitor came to your town? What did everyone do? Were there pictures in the newspaper? Did you stand and wave a flag? In our story today someone very important has just come to town. It may have happened like this . . .

Have you heard the news? Jesus is in town." Over and over people in the town told one another the news. "Jesus is here." Everyone wanted to see Jesus. Men left their work and hurried to hear Him speak. Friends and families helped sick people get near Him. They had heard how He had healed others. Maybe He would heal them too.

Everyone was amazed as they watched Jesus with the people. They saw blind men and women see again. They laughed with lame people who could leap and jump again. They saw mothers and fathers and children well again. Everyone was helped. No one was turned away.



When some of the mothers heard about Jesus, they wanted to see Him too. They wanted Him to bless their children. The children were excited! They were going to see Jesus!

Children everywhere loved Jesus. He smiled at them. He spoke kindly to them and told wonderful stories. He loved the flowers and other small gifts they brought Him.

Soon some of the mothers hurried through the town. They called to their friends, "Come with us to see Jesus." Children told their friends, and soon many were hurrying to see Jesus. But mothers with small children could not go very fast. It took time for the toddlers to walk.

Finally, all the mothers and children reached the crowd around Jesus. They stood at the back trying to look over all the tall people in their way. Some of the small children may have tried to crawl forward. But they could not get near Jesus.

Everyone wanted to see Him. It seemed as if everyone was pushing, trying to get nearer. The mothers felt as if it were hopeless. Could anyone help them see Jesus? Maybe His disciples would help them.

The mothers led the children to the disciples. The disciples frowned at them. They shook their heads. "Go away. Can't you see Jesus is busy? Can't you see He is tired?"

Jesus saw what was happening. "Wait!" He said. "Let the little children come to Me. Don't stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children."

The Message

Children like me are
welcome in God's family.

Memory Verse

*"Let the little children
come to me, and do not
hinder them, for the
kingdom of God belongs
to such as these"*

(Luke 18:16, NIV).

The disciples and the crowd were amazed. The mothers and children hurried to Jesus. He spent a long time with them. He took the children onto His lap and blessed them. Maybe He told the mothers how much He loved the children. Maybe He talked about how they could raise their children to love God.

We don't know what Jesus said to the mothers and children that day. But we can be sure that He was not angry at

them for wanting to be with Him. He was happy! He was glad to talk with them!

Jesus always loves children and parents. And He wants you to come to Him today. He wants you to be a part of His family too.





S A B B A T H

DO This afternoon, go for a walk with your family. Imagine you are all walking to see Jesus. See who has the longest stride in your family. Who had the shortest? What is the difference?

PRAY Thank God that you can run and walk and jump.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 19:13-15 with your family. What did Jesus say to His disciples? Ask your parents to tell you when they learned that they were welcome in God's family.

MAKE Make a welcome banner for your room. Use it to welcome people who come to see you.

PRAY Thank God for welcoming children into His family.

T U E S D A Y

DO Ask your family to think of a friend who does not come to Sabbath School. Invite that person to come next Sabbath.

MAKE Find some old magazines. Cut out pictures that tell you that God loves you. Draw a big heart and stick the pictures on it. Below the heart write "God loves me." Show it to your family.

DO Sing praise songs, then thank God for giving you a family.

S U N D A Y

READ For family worship, read and discuss Luke 18:15-17. What did Jesus mean when He said the kingdom of God belongs to a child? Ask someone to pretend to be a disciple. See if you can get past them.

DRAW Draw a picture of a child and write the memory verse on it. Cut it to make a puzzle. Put the puzzle together and say the verse. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

PRAY Thank God for His never-ending love.

In Jesus' time mothers would take their children to famous rabbis (teachers) to have them blessed.



W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 18:1-6 with your family. Why did Jesus tell His disciples that they should be like little children? Did He want them to play childish games? Did He mean something else?

MAKE Ask your mother if you can make cookies. If possible, use people or heart cookie cutters. Share the cookies with your friends. Tell them that Jesus loves them and wants them to be part of His family too.

DO Sing "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 139) before prayer. Pray for a friend who does not know that God loves them.



T H U R S D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss the story in Matthew 9:18, 19, 23-25. Think of other stories about Jesus helping children.

DO Do something nice for someone today. Wash the dishes; help look after baby brother or sister. Tell them that you love them and that they are part of God's family too.

MAKE Use a stamp pad or finger paint to make a fingerprint family. Make one print for the head, one for the body, and two each for the arms and legs. Make as many people as are in your family.

PRAY Ask God to bless your whole family, your aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents.



F R I D A Y

DO Help your family get ready for Sabbath.

READ For worship today, read Luke 18:15-17 and act out the story with your family. Say your memory verse together.

DO Sing favorite praise songs, then thank God for the blessings of the Sabbath.

Let the Children Come **PUZZLE**

Directions: Circle the correct word or picture so that the following statement reflects this week's lesson.



brought



to Jesus so

that He could (kiss, bless) them. The disciples

were



, but Jesus was



when

He said the following belonged to the children:

— — — — — — — — — — —
n o d m k g i f o o g d