

COGIC Sunday School Lesson: Lesson 13, May 24, 2026, Childlike Faith

Luke 18:15-17; Mark 10:16

Bible Basis: Luke 18:15-17; Mark 10:16

Bible truth: Jesus taught that to receive the gift of the Kingdom of God, the faithful must become as children.

Memory Verse: "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein" (Luke 18:17).

Lesson Aim: - Key Take Aways

1. We must have total dependence on God- just as children rely on their guardian.
 2. Trust Without Doubt – Believe without questioning.
 3. Have Joyful and Expectant Faith - Children run to their guardians expecting love, provision and care. That's how we should be with God.
 4. Excitement and Wonder – Our faith should reflect awe and excitement for the things of God.
 5. Humility and Teachability – We should be opened to God's guidance like children are with their guardians.
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Names that matter:

1. Jesus
 2. The Disciples
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✦ Lesson Overview

Jesus points to children as models of kingdom life: open-handed trust, eagerness, and freedom from self-importance ([Matthew 18:3](#); [Psalm 131:2](#)).

Historically- Children in Jewish culture were loved but had no social status. Welcoming them overturned common expectations about who mattered.

The passage corrects any notion that importance with God is measured by age, rank, or accomplishments.

Parents bring their children to Jesus so He can bless them. The disciples try to stop them, but Jesus corrects them and teaches that the kingdom of God belongs to those who come like little children — humble, trusting, and open-hearted.

The Lesson:

Luke 18:15-17

15And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when *his* disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them.

16But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

17Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Mark 10:16

16And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.

What's happening here?

1. Parents bring infants to Jesus (v. 15)

“And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them ...”

- Parents are bringing **very young children—even infants** to Jesus so He can **touch them (in the Greek that means- to get to know them personally) and bless them.**
- In Jewish culture, it was common to seek a **holy man's blessing** for children.
- Luke intentionally uses a word that means **babies**, not just older kids, to show how young these children were.

Teaching Point:

Parents believed Jesus' touch mattered. They trusted Him with their children's spiritual well-being.

2. The disciples rebuke the parents (v. 15)

“... but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.”

- “Rebuke” Censure or admonish; by implication, forbid.
- The disciples try to **stop** the parents.
- Likely reasons:
 - They thought Jesus was too important or too busy.
 - In the **first-century world**, children had **low social status** and were often seen as unimportant in public or religious life.
- Mark’s parallel account says Jesus was **indignant** (angry) with the disciples for this behavior.

What this shows:

The disciples misunderstood **who Jesus’ kingdom is for** and were thinking in worldly terms—importance, status, efficiency.

3. Jesus reverses the situation (v. 16)

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not...”

- Jesus **calls the children to Himself** and directly **overrules the disciples**.
- “Suffer” here means **allow** or **permit**.
- Jesus presents children not as interruptions, but as **examples**.

Key statement:

“...for of such is the kingdom of God.”

This does **not** mean:

- Children are automatically saved because they are children.

It **does** mean:

- God’s kingdom belongs to people who are like children in their **dependence and trust** in Him.

- This underscores the importance of removing obstacles that prevent people from experiencing the grace and love of God.
- This aligns with the teachings of Jesus, God desires all to come to repentance and knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4)

Teaching Point:

God's grace is not guarded by human rankings, busyness, or ideas of importance.

4. Jesus explains the deeper lesson (v. 17)

“Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”

Jesus now applies the lesson to **adults**.

In the first century:

- Children had **no power, no status, and no claim to merit**.
- They depended entirely on others.

So “receive the kingdom like a child” means:

- **Dependence**, not self-sufficiency
- **Trust**, not control
- **Humility**, not pride
- **Receptivity**, not achievement

Jesus is saying:

You cannot enter God's kingdom by status, knowledge, morality, or effort.

You must receive it as a gift—like a child receives care.

This fits exactly with the surrounding context in Luke 18, where Jesus has just taught about **humble prayer** and will next confront a **self-sufficient rich ruler**.

Teaching Point:

God's grace is not guarded by human rankings, busyness, or ideas of importance. Anything that makes Jesus seem inaccessible misrepresents the heart of the gospel.

Mark 10:16

What's happening here?

1. "He took them up in his arms"

This is **intentional physical closeness**.

- Mark is the only Gospel that records this detail.
- The wording suggests Jesus **embraced** the children, not merely stood over them.
- In the first-century world, where children had **no status or authority**, this was a striking reversal—an honored teacher openly holding society's "least".

Teaching Point:

Jesus does not merely permit children near Him; He **welcomes them personally and affectionately**.

2. "Put his hands upon them"

This is a **formal act of blessing**.

- The **laying on of hands** is a well-established biblical gesture used for:
 - Blessing (Genesis 48:14)
 - Setting apart
 - Conveying divine favor
- By placing His hands on them, Jesus gives **individual attention**, not a general or rushed gesture.

Teaching Point:

Children are not passive symbols in this moment—they are **direct recipients** of Jesus' care and favor.

3. “And blessed them”

This is more than kindness—it is **spiritual action**.

- The word “blessed” indicates Jesus is **invoking God’s favor** over them.
- In biblical terms, a blessing is not a wish; it is a **spoken act of grace and protection**.
- This comes *after* Jesus rebukes the disciples and teaches about the nature of God’s kingdom (vv. 14–15), so the blessing **confirms His teaching through action**.

Teaching Point:

Jesus is demonstrating that **God’s kingdom truly belongs to those like these children**, not merely talking about it.

The larger meaning of the moment

Putting it all together:

- **The disciples tried to exclude** children.
- **Jesus deliberately includes them**.
- He **touches, embraces, and blesses** those with no social power.
- He models what God’s kingdom is like—**received, not earned**.

This verse **embodies** what Jesus just taught:

“Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it.” (Mark 10:15)

Children receive care; they do not claim it. Jesus’ actions show that **God’s grace works the same way**.

In one sentence

Mark 10:16 shows Jesus personally and publicly affirming that the powerless, dependent, and overlooked are fully welcomed into God's kingdom—and are its living examples.

 **Discussion Questions**

1. Why did the disciples try to stop the parents from bringing their children?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says we must receive the kingdom like a child?
3. How can we show childlike faith in our daily lives?
4. What does Jesus' blessing in Mark 10:16 tell us about His character?
5. How can we help others feel welcomed by Jesus?