

Get Ready!**Trust And Obey**

By: Jennifer Wetzel

**Text**

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.” Mark 10:13-16 (NIV)

Key Quest Verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

Bible Background

A succinct writing, the gospel of Mark concentrates on recounting the works of Jesus, as opposed to His words and teachings. The writings of Mark portray Jesus as a servant, showing what He accomplished during His life on earth. In *What the Bible Is All About*, scholars agree that Mark was writing for a Roman audience. Since the Roman culture contrasted with the Jewish culture, Roman readers might not have possessed extensive knowledge of the Scriptures and its prophecies concerning the arrival of the Son of God. Instead, a story about the life of Jesus as an earthly man would hold their interest and reach their hearts. In Mark, readers see the humble servitude of Christ on earth instead of His majesty as the King of Jews. In the sixteen chapters of Mark, concentration is placed on Jesus’ public ministry. The account of Jesus blessing the children, though short in all of the gospels, is more precisely described in the gospel of Mark. At the time of the blessing the children, Jesus was in Judea to teach and heal. The Pharisees were taking advantage of His arrival and public ministry to question Him. Since they were in the land governed by Herod Antipas, who had John the Baptist beheaded, the Pharisees were hoping that Jesus’ words would cause Him to be imprisoned as well. It is these discussions with the Pharisees that were interrupted by the arrival of the children. As parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples became upset and attempted to turn these people away. Instead, Jesus gladly welcomed the children to him and affirmed their importance. In this lesson, Jesus shows that the Kingdom of God cannot be inherited unless you receive it like a little child. A child is open and receptive. Only those who are prepared to accept the gift of God with obedience, humility, and trust can inherit the Kingdom of God. It cannot be achieved by human effort. After using the children as an analogy for inheriting the Kingdom of God, Jesus takes the children in His arms and blesses them. In this action, He demonstrates that the blessings of God are freely given to all, even unto the least among men. Though the children are the focus of this passage, they are the only people that do not do anything of their own accord. Their parents bring them, the disciples rebuke them, and Jesus welcomes them. They were humble and obedient participants in the lesson, not saying anything or choosing their own path. Instead, they allow Jesus to guide their actions. This attitude is the same that we must have in order to inherit the Kingdom of God. We must simply trust and obey.

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: The only way to receive the Kingdom of God is by trusting in God and not through human effort and that the gift of the Kingdom is freely given to all.

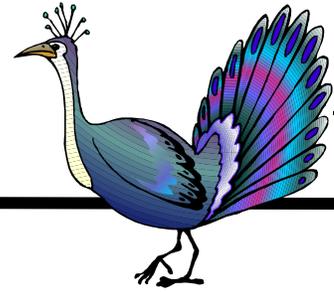
Feel: Trust in the Lord's love and humble acceptance of His gift.

Do: Recognize God's blessings in our lives and express trust in Him.

Leader's Devotion

Have you ever watched a baby in its crib? Unable to help itself, a baby must wait until an adult anticipates its needs. All needs of the child are dependent on the caregiver. The baby has no choice in which direction its young life will go each day. Does this bother the baby? It seems no. The baby rests comfortably in its crib, waiting for the caregiver. Usually, it does not sit and worry whether or not the caregiver is attending to its needs. And, when someone arrives to take the baby out of its crib, have you noticed how the baby responds? With joy and outstretched arms. It reaches out to the person, trusting that this person will treat them with care and protect them. Babies are miracles. Helpless, babies put their trust in others for everything. Babies uniquely express the trust that God wishes each of us to have. In the blessing of the little children, Jesus states that no one will inherit the Kingdom of God unless he accepts it like a little child. What did he mean? Jesus meant for us to be open, receptive participants of the Kingdom of God. We must accept the gift humbly, trusting in God for our needs. Like babies, we are all helpless creatures. The Kingdom of God cannot be attained through good works or human effort. No matter how hard you try to be kind or good, you will not receive the Kingdom of God. Instead, we need to admit our helplessness. We humble ourselves to recognize that only God can meet our every need. Babies cannot help themselves; neither can we. Just as babies depend on a caregiver to meet their physical and social needs, we must depend on God to fulfill our needs. In fact, He knows our needs before we do! We must put our trust in God. We should outstretch our arms and welcome Him into our lives with joy. Do you remember the comfort and safety you felt as a child when your parents or loved ones held you in their arms? It brought peace. Trusting in God brings that same peace. The hymn sums it up the best, *"Trust and obey/For there's no other way/To be happy in Jesus/Than to trust and obey."*

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Color picture of a peacock

Procedures: Hold up the picture of the peacock for the students to see. Ask them what animal appears in the picture. Then, ask them to name characteristics of the peacock. **“You’re right, I’m holding a picture of a peacock. And, all of the things you told me about the peacock are correct. I was most interested in one of the personality traits of the peacock. You told me that they strut around. They act very proud of themselves. Have you ever heard the expression “As proud as a peacock”?** People who are very proud are often compared to a peacock. Peacocks strut around, displaying their beautiful feathers. When people are too proud, we compare them to this animal so that everyone will know just how bad they are.” **“But, what happens when we are proud of ourselves? Does it help us to make friends or get along with others?”** Wait for students’ responses and let them share experiences. **“You’re right. It’s hard to like people that are proud of themselves. In fact, it causes more damage than they know. Jesus told us that to inherit the Kingdom of God, we must be like little children. He meant that we needed to be humble, which is the opposite of being proud, and trust in God. People who are proud will not inherit the Kingdom of God. To be in God’s Kingdom, we cannot be as “proud as peacocks”. Instead, we must be humble, trusting children. Let’s see what the lesson text says about being like little children.”**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

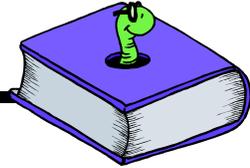
Materials: Words to the song *“Trust and Obey”* (either in hymnals, on overhead, or printed on the chalkboard)

Procedures: Sing the song *“Trust and Obey”* with the children. If possible, have the church pianist or worship leader visit the class to teach the hymn to the students. Or, use a song or worship chorus about trust with which the children are familiar. Then, have a short discussion with the students on what the words of the song mean to the lesson.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Go!

Literature Link



READING

Materials: *Just the Way You Are* by Max Lucado (original edition published under the title *The Children of the King*) (titles available at public libraries and bookstores), gold or yellow posterboard, stapler, fake jewels, glue, pens or pencils, glitter, scissors

Quest Connection

Procedures: Read *Just the Way You Are* by Max Lucado to the students. (In this story, five orphans, living by themselves, are given news that the king wants to be their father and is coming for them soon. The excited children rush to perfect their talents in order to impress the king at his arrival, sure that this is the only way to win his love and be welcomed into his castle. Four of the five children prepare their gifts diligently, to the exclusion of all other things. The fifth child, with no outward gift, is disappointed and takes care of the village animals. One day, a stranger arrives in town and she tends to his donkey. As she spills her sorrow to the stranger, it is revealed that he is the king. Since she is the only child not too busy for the king, he adopts her. Can be used to stress to the children that the good works of the children did not win them the favor of the king.) Discuss the book with the students, pointing out that some of the children tried to win the king’s favor with talents and gifts and did not succeed. Only the child who was open and receptive was prepared for the king’s arrival.

Ask the following questions:

Did the children with gifts succeed in winning the king’s love? Why or why not?

Who was ready for the king? Why?

Do we try to win God’s love? How?

What are some of the traits of the girl in this book that prepared her for the king’s arrival and life in his castle?

Should we possess any of these traits?

How do we become children of the king?

How do we inherit the Kingdom of God?

After discussing the book, students can make crowns to show that they are children of the king. Cut the yellow or gold posterboard into strips. Give children a piece and help them fit it to the size of their head. Have the children decorate the strip to look like a crown, using the glitter, markers, and jewels. Encourage them to decorate their crown with ways of becoming children of the king, such as “trust”, “obedience”, and “humility.” When you are finished decorating the crowns, staple them into a circle so that students can wear them.

Close

Sing “*Jesus Loves Me.*” Then, ask a student to offer a closing prayer.

Go!



Magnificent Mural

ART/CRAFT

Materials: Roll of white butcher paper, markers, crayons, masking tape

Quest Connection

In the lesson text, students read that Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them. Through this, they learn that God’s blessings are offered freely to everyone. This lesson will allow students to visually place their trust in Jesus.

Procedure: Before class, cut a piece of butcher paper the length of the classroom wall. Tape the butcher paper to the wall where the students will be able to easily reach it. In the middle of the mural, draw or tape up a picture of Jesus with outstretched arms. Above the picture of Jesus, write the “Let the little children come to me” and the Key Quest Verse.

When students arrive, review the lesson text with them. Ask them to imagine what it would be like to have been one of the children present when Jesus blessed them. **“What would you have told Jesus? What would you have felt like at that moment? Even though we were not present when Jesus blessed the children, He still blesses everyone. God shares His blessings freely. We can have His blessings even though we can’t be with Him in a physical state. We can still share our worries and fears with Him. By putting our trust in Him, we can be close to Him like the children in today’s story. Let’s make this mural to show that Jesus welcomes us as well. He is holding His arms out to welcome each of us. Let’s draw ourselves with Jesus. After you draw yourself with Jesus, write two ways that you will trust him beside your illustration. Let’s show Jesus how we will put our trust in Him.”** Give the students the crayons and markers and have each child draw a picture of themselves on the mural. Recreate the scene of Jesus blessing the children on the mural.

Close

Have the children share ways that they will trust Jesus this week. Close with prayer. **“Dear Lord, Thank You for offering us your blessings. We are thankful that everyone can know Your love. Help us to remember that we must trust in You to receive the Kingdom of God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”**

Go!**The Trust Toss****GAME**

Materials: Open area, beanie baby or soft doll

Quest Connection

Students have learned that in order to inherit the Kingdom of God, they must place humble trust in Him. In this activity, they will have a chance to learn the Key Quest Verse to better understanding the meaning of trust.

Procedure: At the beginning of class, read the key quest verse to the students. Then, have the students repeat the verse together. Ask them to discuss the meaning of the word “trust.” What does it mean to put your trust in someone? What are ways to put your trust in someone? If the students have trouble discussing the meaning of the word trust, use babies and their dependency on others as an example.

Clear an area in the classroom for the students to move about. Have the students form a large circle. Then, show the students the beanie baby or doll. **“Today, I brought my favorite toy to share with you. I’m going to let you toss my favorite toy back and forth. However, I’m putting my trust in you. I really don’t want my toy to get dropped or tossed hard. It’s special to me and I’m trusting that you will take good care of my toy. When you toss my toy to each other, work hard to catch it! Anyone who drops the toy or fails to catch it will have to recite today’s Key Quest Verse.”**

Allow the students to toss the toy back and forth. Join in the game and try to toss the toy so that the children do drop it. Work at bad tossing so that students will have to recite the memory verse.

Close

Summarize the meaning of trust with the students. Explain how we must put our trust in God to inherit the Kingdom of God. Read John 14:1 to the students.

Go!**Bountiful Blessings****ART/CRAFT****Materials:** Construction paper, markers, staplers**Quest Connection**

In the lesson text, students read that Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them. Through this, they learn that God's blessings are offered freely to everyone. This activity will allow them to examine ways that God has blessed their lives. In this way, they can see that He continues to bless everyone in today's times.

Procedure: At the beginning of class, review the Bible text with the students. Ask them what the last verse means to them. What did it mean when Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them? Explain the importance of this verse to them. God's blessings are given freely to all. Then, point out examples of blessings that God has granted in their lives. Then, explain to the students that today, they are to think of at least ten ways God has blessed their lives. For instance, He gave them good friends, plenty of food to eat, a special talent, etc. Hand the construction paper out to the students. Have them cut the paper into strips approximately 1-1 ½ inches thick. On each strip, students should write down a way God has blessed their lives. Encourage the students to think of at least ten blessings and write them on ten different strips. When students are done completing their strips, have them create a loop out of the first strip and staple it in place. Then, they should attach their other blessing strips to the first to make a paper chain. When all of the students are finished, take their paper chains and fasten them together. Use the chain to decorate the classroom. In fact, this could be used as a challenge to the students. For example, let's see if we can name enough blessings to stretch the chain down the hallway or around the room at least once.

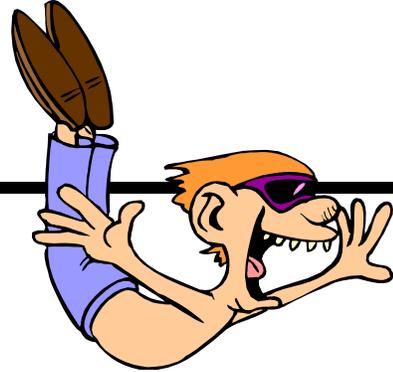
Close

Have students share the blessings that they wrote down. Ask each child to explain one blessing to the other students. Then, ask a student to close with prayer.

Go!**The Trust Test**

GAME

Materials: Open Area

**Quest Connection**

Students have learned that in order to inherit the Kingdom of God, they must place trust in Him. In this activity, they will have a chance to better understand what it feels like to put your trust in someone, especially someone you may not know.

Procedure: Before class, ask members of your congregation to visit your Sunday School class during the last half of the session to work with the students. At the beginning of class, ask students to review what they have learned about trust. Then, clear space in the classroom to complete this activity. Have each child pick a partner. If there is an odd number of students, this can be done in groups. “Today, we are going to do trust falls. How many of you have done a trust fall?” Then, explain and demonstrate a trust fall to the students. One person stands directly in front of their partner with their eyes closed and arms folded across their chest. Then, they allow themselves to fall backward, depending on their partner to catch them. It is up to the partner to be prepared to catch the falling person. Have students take turns doing trust falls with their partners. Give the students several opportunities to attempt the trust falls, as it will be easier for some students to do. Then, invite the members of your congregation. Ask each of them to pick a student. Explain that you will do the trust falls again. Only this time, each student will be partnered with an adult that they may not know well. Give the students time to do trust falls with the members of the congregation. After completing the trust fall activities, gather the students together for a discussion. Ask them the following questions:

What did it feel like to do the trust falls? Were you nervous or scared?

Did you trust that the person behind you would catch you?

What did trusting them make you feel toward them?

Was it easier to fall and have your friend catch you or a stranger? Why?

Do we ever feel nervous or scared about trusting God? Why or why not?

What can we learn about trusting God from this activity?

Close

Teach the students the following poem. “Trusting God brings joy! In God I put my trust! I trust God with all my heart! Trusting Him is a must!” Have the students recite this poem together. Then, ask a visitor to close with prayer.

Go!

The Trust Talk Show

GAME

Materials: Chairs



Quest Connection

In the lesson, the students read about Jesus blessing the children. The emphasis of the activities has been on placing trust in God and allowing Him to bless our lives. This activity will allow students to take a firsthand glimpse at what the children in the Bible story must have felt like.

Procedure: Before class, clear a space in the classroom to be the “stage.” Then, line chairs up on the stage, with one chair set apart for the talk show host. Also, line chairs up for the audience. Invite other Sunday school students or congregation members to participate in the talk show. When students and visitors arrive, select one student to be the talk show host. Then, allow the other students to be the talk show participants. The theme of the show is “Close to Christ: Words from the Children Present.” The students will pretend to be the children present when Jesus blessed them. The talk show host will ask them questions on what they said or did with Christ, what it felt like, what Christ did, what the people in the crowd did, etc. Have all students participate in this drama activity so that they can imagine what it would have been like to be present during the Bible story.

Close

Have students sing *Jesus Loves the Little Children*. Then, offer prayer to close.

Lesson Review

Directions: Use today's lesson text to answer the following questions.

Who was taking children to Jesus? _____

Who rebuked people bringing children to Jesus? _____

How did Jesus feel about the disciples turning the children away?

What did Jesus say about the children?

How do we inherit the Kingdom of God?

What did Jesus mean when He said we should be like little children?

After speaking, what did Jesus do to the children?

How can we trust in God?

Can the Kingdom of God be inherited through good works? Why or why not?

Who will not enter the Kingdom of God?

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

Directions: Find each of the words in the Key Quest Verse in the crossword above.
 Words may run horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and even backwards! Don't forget to
 Find the book of the Bible where the Key Quest Verse is found!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”
Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

My Journal Page

**Think about a time that you were scared to trust someone.
For example, were you afraid the first day of school even though your
parents told you that it would be okay? Describe the time that you were afraid
to trust someone and what the end results were.**