

*Get Ready!***Jesus Blesses the Children**

By: Kara Huffer

Text

Mark 10:13-16

Key Quest Verse

“Let the children come to me...for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

Bible Background

Many people felt Jesus should be rubbing elbows with important people and raising His popularity. In this Scripture we find that Jesus is spending time with those He feels are important. A child trusts and believes people that they feel comfortable around. Adults are very cautious to trust others. Jesus was letting even His disciples know that to enter the Kingdom we must become as little children and place our trust in God.



*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** Jesus loves us!**Feel:** Confident that Jesus cares for you.**Do:** Always follow in Jesus' footsteps.**Leader's Devotion**

How important are children to you? Can you imagine living when Jesus was living on this earth? If you heard He was coming to your hometown what would you do? He was the miracle worker and most important celebrity of His time. Would you want to see Him? Would you want to hear Him? Many people flocked to see Jesus maybe not for all the right reasons but they were interested. If there was someone who could bless their children and make them have a better life wouldn't you do everything in your power just to get near Him and possibly touch Him? People are no different today than they were in Jesus' day. Parents are parents and want the best for their children!

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: M & M's, glass jar

I have a bag of M & M's I'm going to share with you but these are not to eat. I'm going to give you each seven M & M's and I want you to think of different things people do to show they love you. First I want you to say who the person is and then as you put your M & M in the jar tell what that person does to show they love you or you can tell something you do to show someone you love them. We will take turns so that will give you a little time to think. (As the children take turns placing candy in the jar, swirl the M & M's around so they can hear them) We all have very special people in our lives that love us don't we! (Swirl the jar of candy around, talk to your class) What do you think I could do right now to show that I love you? (Wait for response) I'll share these M & M's with you as I tell the story you can eat them but I want you to listen to someone who really loves children a lot!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Has anybody here seen anyone famous? What would you do if you heard the president of the United States was coming to town? How do you get the news that something big is going to happen? Like some important famous person is coming to town? What would you do if you heard that God's son was coming to town for a visit? Let's see what happened when Jesus went to town.



GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Advanced Preparation: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles. Have a Bible map of Jesus ministry available to look at.

How important do you think that you are to Jesus? The Bible tells us that children are very important to Jesus and He went out of his way to bless children and tell others about them. Jesus traveled all around teaching and preaching to the people and telling them about God. Wherever He went there were big crowds trying to see Him and hear Him. People were probably pushing and shoving just to get a little closer to see Him. There were tall people and short people and old people and even young people there to see Jesus on this day. People were so excited to see Jesus that even parents were taking their children up so Jesus could just touch them. We don't know exactly what happened that day but as Jesus was touching the parent's babies the disciples said something like this, "Come on parents, get your little kids, get out of the way, Jesus has more important people to see." This upset Jesus and He said, "Let the children come to me." Maybe He held out His arms and a little child came running toward Jesus smiling just ready to be picked up and hugged. The mom and dad must have really been excited to have their child touched and held by Jesus. Jesus went on to say, "You better make sure you teach these children what is right because they are very special to me. If you do anything that would make them want to be bad and not follow me and God's teachings you'll be in big trouble." So if anyone starts to bully one of His children or is mean or tempts them to do drugs it will be bad news for them! Jesus was probably very stern as He talked to the adults. If anyone did anything wrong to the children it would be better to have a millstone or rock tied around their neck and be drowned. Do you think Jesus loved children? Can you imagine how the children felt when they heard Jesus talking so nicely about them and how important they were? Jesus was their hero and they were ready to do anything for Him and follow Him. Jesus wants every single child to be in God's Kingdom. So what happened that day? Maybe Jesus was tired and the disciples knew it and thought he needed a break. No matter what we know that someone said, "Leave Jesus alone all you kids" but Jesus had a quick answer! "Don't let the children stop coming to me! That's what the kingdom is made of!" Jesus is always there for you and he loves you. Then Jesus said to the grownups, "Unless you accept me like these little children do, you will not be in the Kingdom." Did Jesus say that all children would be in God's Kingdom? No. Some kids are not nice and rude and destructive. Would God want these kinds of kids in His Kingdom to destroy it? Jesus was thinking of sweet boys and girls who were accepting Him and wanted to follow and obey God's teachings. If we are not like this we must change and follow Him! Jesus loves you!

*Go!***Invisible Picture**

EXPERIMENT

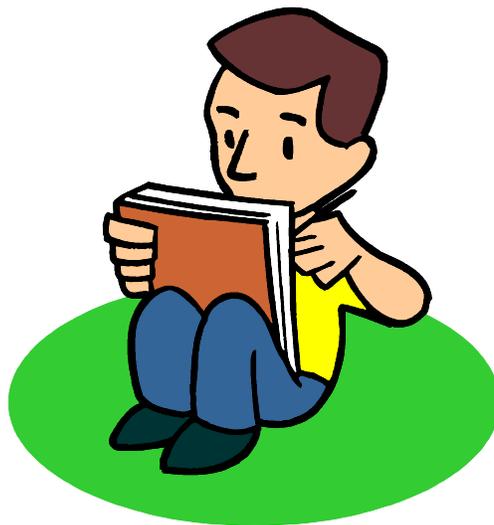
Materials: Paper, white crayon, paints, water, paper towels for clean-up**Quest Connection**

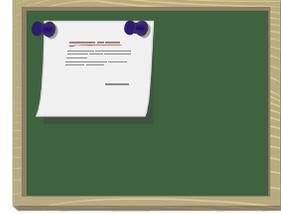
In our story today we learned something very important about Jesus. There is an invisible picture on this paper we will see what the special message Jesus wants us to receive from today's lesson. When you paint over the paper, you will see the invisible picture.

Procedure: Use a white crayon to draw a heart on the paper and Jesus Loves Me by covering the letters and heart several times to build the wax up. Make one for each child.

Close

What is the message on our invisible picture? How do you know that Jesus loves you?
How can you show Jesus that you love Him?



Go!**Kingdom of God****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Bulletin board or cork board, index cards

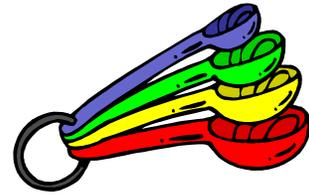
Preparation: Place each of the following on an index card: How tall you are/being good at soccer/going to church/making good grades/being kind to others/how many toys you have/money/looks/ how fat or skinny you are/ your house/ reading your Bible/ being baptized/Faith in God/ loving Jesus and God/Trusting in God/Praying/Telling others about God.

Quest Connection

We learned in our story that Jesus truly loved the children. We need to know what is important to Jesus to make sure we know what is important to enter God's Kingdom. On this side of the board I'm going to write God's Kingdom and on this side of the board, I'll write others. We will draw a card one at a time and you tell me which place to put it. If it's important to be in God's Kingdom we put it there if not we put it on the other side. Ready, (Let each student have a turn at choosing a card and placing it in the right place)

Close

Let's look at what is really important. Does it matter how tall you are or how rich you are to enter God's Kingdom? We must love God and Jesus and tell others of their love.

Go!**Jesus Changes Lives!****FOOD**

Materials: Flour, salt, cream of tartar, water, vegetable oil, food coloring, measuring spoons/cups, Ziploc container

Procedure: Make the recipe as follow: 1 cup white flour, 1/4 cup salt, 2 Tbs. cream of tartar, 1 cup water, 1 Tbs. vegetable oil, food coloring. Mix flour, salt and cream of tartar in a medium pot. Add water and oil. Stir over medium heat for 3 to 5 minutes. It will look "globby", but it will turn to dough! When the mixture forms a ball in the center of the pot, turn off the stove and let it cool. Then take it out and knead it on a floured surface. When it feels smooth and nice to work with, you're done. Store in an airtight container in the fridge. Divide the dough into individual portions for the children and push a hole in the center. Place one drop of red food coloring inside and seal the hole with dough around it. Place in a storage bag.

Quest Connection

Jesus loves us and wants us to be molded to follow Him. I've got some modeling clay for you to each create something to show how much Jesus loves us and how He can change our lives. Think of what Jesus has done for us and how much He loves us! (When the kids realize the dough is changing color, it's very hard for them not to keep kneading it. That's okay, because then you can say that the more God works on our hearts, the more we change into the creation He wants us to be. You can continue by saying that after we know Him and Jesus, change will continue and that we will want to do the right thing. That's how we know that we belong to God. We are different or changed! Emphasize that salvation through Christ is a process and we continue to grow and love Him more each day.)

Close

We don't become the person God wants us to become overnight. God works with us for a long time in some areas. We must listen to God and our parents and follow what He wants us to do. Can you name some things we must do to show we love God and Jesus?

Go!**Beeee Like Jesus****GAME**

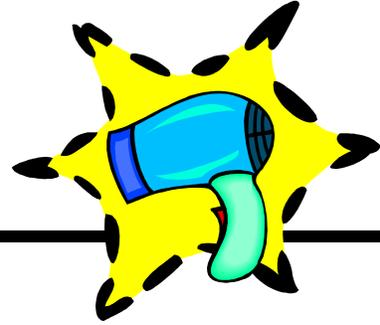
Material: None

Quest Connection

BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ Do you want to “BEE” for JESUS? Well, then, put on your bee wings by folding your arms toward your chest and raising and lowering them. Each time you hear the word “BEE”--- Let’s all BUZZZZZZ around the room together. **BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ**.

I want to BEE like JESUS!**I want to BEEcome honest, kind, and strong.****If I BEEhave and obey my parents I won’t BEE doing things all wrong!****If I fail to BEE listening, I will BEE missing something good.****If I BEElieve the Bible, I will BEE doing as I should!****So I’ll BEE “bizzz-y” everyday.****I’ll BEE very kind to others.****I can BEE strong and honest.****I want to love others like Jesus!****I want to Bee like Jesus!****Close**

How can you be like Jesus?

Go!**Comparison****OBJECT LESSON**

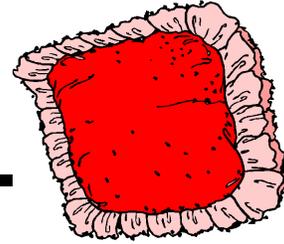
Materials: Disposable diaper, paper plate, paper cup, plastic cutlery, paper tablecloth.
and items needing repaired like a lamp without a bulb, hairdryer without plug, shirt that needs a button.

Quest Connection

In our story we learned that Jesus loves us and He is our friend. We should all love Jesus and serve Him. He should be like our best friend. What are some of the things you do with your best friend? Now I want you to think of something else. Suppose your best friend promised to take you some place special but instead left you out and invited someone else to go. How would you feel? What would you want to say to that person? Now let me show you something. I have several items here that we are going to compare. What do all these first items have in common? These are all items that are disposable or made to be thrown away. (Take out the items needing attention or repair.) What do these things have in common? Sometimes we think that's how people treat us, like we're disposable, they can use us and just throw us away when they're finished with us. At other times they treat us like these things that needed repair, and they might just not want to take the time to mend our friendship, it might not be worth it to them, and that's very sad.

Close

Jesus is not that way! Jesus loves us and is our friend forever.

Go!**Pillow Project****ART/CRAFT**

Materials: ¼ yd red fabric, pattern, red thread, poly fiberfill, needles

Quest Connection

I have something that will make your sleep at night more pleasant. It doesn't look so good now though, what do you think it needs? That's the way we are without Jesus in our life! We aren't filled and we need to turn our life around. Let's begin this project by turning the heart right side out to show we're on the right side, following Jesus. Now we need to stuff it and fill it with love. Let's pretend this stuffing is love and let Jesus fill our heart with love. Last we must stitch the pillow closed.

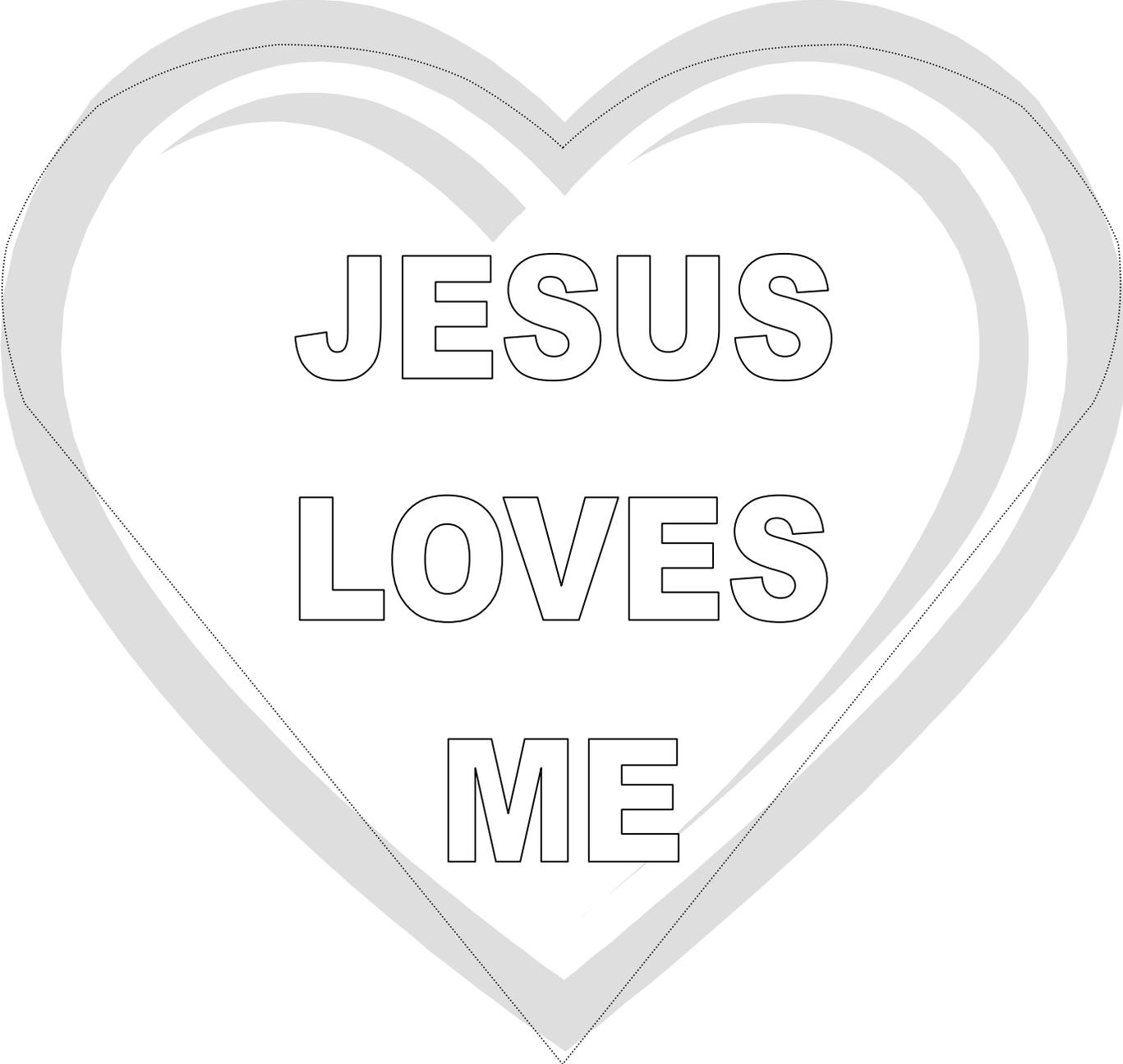
Procedure: Cut out a pillow and sew for each child, leaving a 3 inch opening so the pillow can be turned and stuffed. Pre-thread needles with red thread.

Close

Jesus loves us and will fill our hearts with love if we only trust and follow Him.

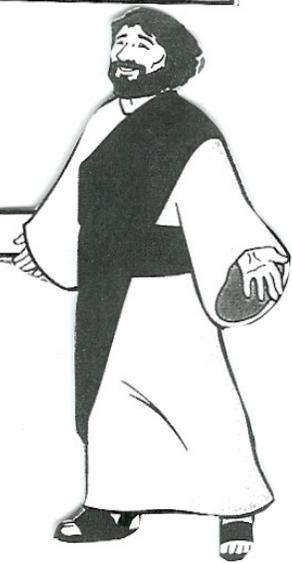
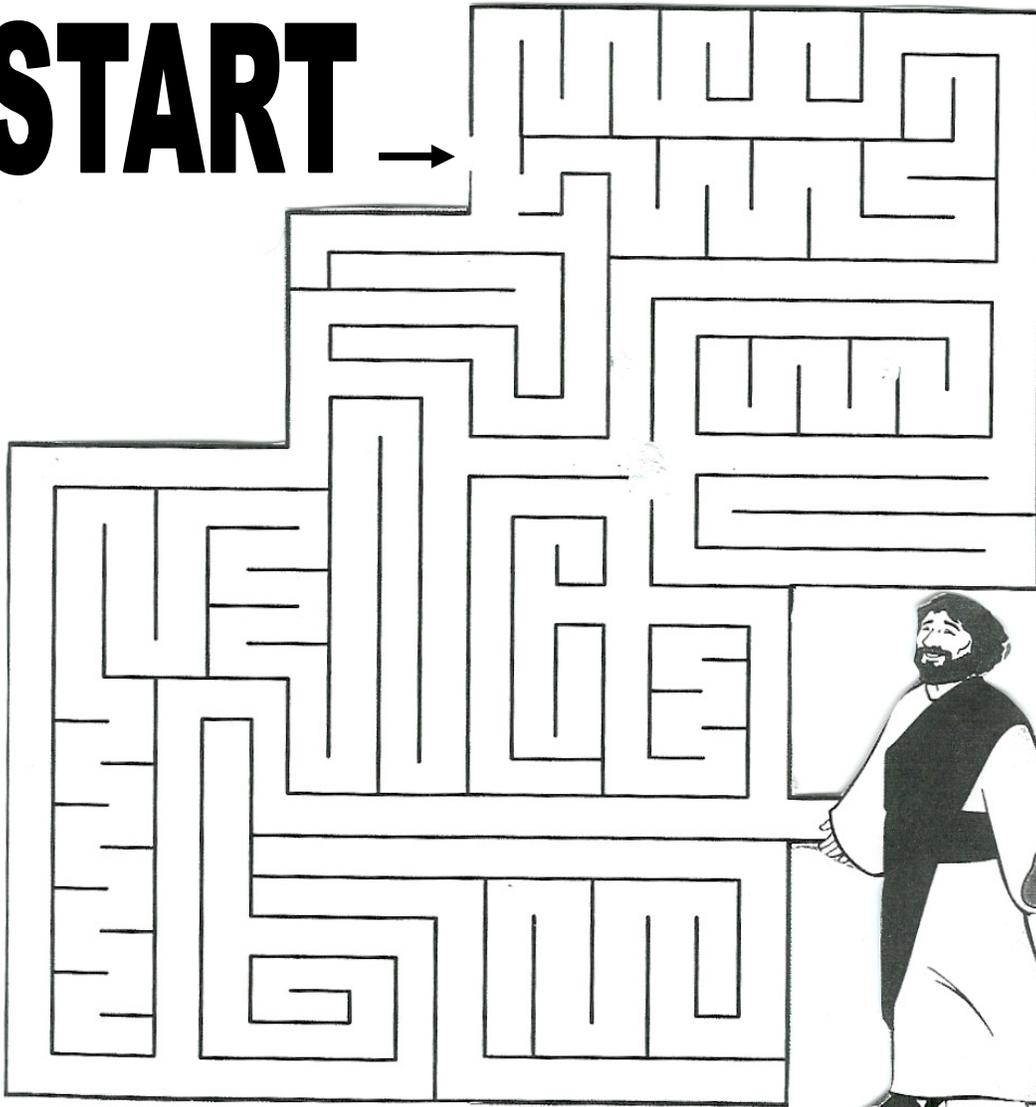
Dot to Dot

Connect the dots in blue. Color the words in yellow. Color everything else red.





START



Cup Holder and Door Hanger

Copy onto cardstock and decorate with markers and glitter glue.

