

37. Blessing the Children

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

37. Blessing the Children

- a) Imagine wanting to be the greatest in heaven! You can tell children that often the disciples wanted to be the greatest, and each time Jesus told them that it was not a good wish.
- b) Emphasize two things in the first story. First, the Lord put the child right in the middle of the disciples. Second, this little child would be one of the last people that the disciples would have thought would be the greatest.
- c) Then the Lord told people to look after little children, and He will feel invited into them.
- d) The second story is sort of similar, with the disciples thinking that little children weren't important enough to be brought to the Lord. Only they, and people like them, were important enough.
- e) Ask children why a little child is like the angels, and maybe grownups aren't. First of all, little children know that they need help, just like the angels know that they need help. Second, little children do not deliberately hurt others, and the angels don't either. A very little child is nearly always happy because the angels are with him or her. So, we older people need to become like little children, and then we will become like angels.

- f) Finally, emphasize that the Lord touched the children, as the parents were hoping. He didn't just touch them, He lifted them up in His arms, and laid His hands on them—a very special touching. The Lord does this to all people.



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The Lord Blesses the Little Children

The disciples came to Jesus saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

And Jesus, calling a little child, put him in the middle of the disciples, and said to them, “Amen, I say to you. Unless you change and become as little children, you shall not come into the kingdom of heaven. Whoever shall make himself humble, like this little child, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever shall welcome such a little child in My name, invites Me to be with him.”

Matthew 18

And the people brought little children to Jesus that He might touch them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought the children.

When Jesus saw this, He was displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me and don’t stop them, for of such is the kingdom of God. Whoever shall not accept the kingdom of God as a little child shall not enter into heaven.”

And having taken the little children up in His arms and putting His hands upon them, He blessed them.

Mark 10

