

Sunday between October 2 and 8 – year B

Preparation

Read the Gospel [Mark 10, 2-16](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/properb22.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/27-b/K-27-b.html>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/240JesusAndChildren.pdf>

<http://www.msscrafs.com/newtestament/children.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/let_the_children_come.htm

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/blesschildren.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Invite the children to sit in chairs that are set up in two rows with the chairs back to back. Start the music and have the children start dancing around the chairs. Remove one of the chairs and then stop the music. The child that doesn't get a seat is out. Continue playing musical chairs until there is only one child in a chair. Gather with the children again in a circle. Ask the children who were excluded from the game how they felt not being able to play anymore. *Wait for their responses.* Explain that in today's story they are going to hear some more questions and about some children who were being kept away from Jesus.

Story Time

Materials needed

- Question mark poster made with previous lesson
- Blessing image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick

Instructions

Copy the blessing image from the end of the lesson and cut it out. Set it with the glue stick near the poster. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson.

Jesus and his friends were travelling again. They left Capernaum and went on the Judea. They crossed over the Jordan River. Wherever Jesus went crowds of people came to see him. Jesus taught the people about God’s kingdom.

One day Jesus was teaching the people. Some leaders of synagogue¹ came to Jesus to test him with him with a tough question. They asked, “Jesus is right for people to get a divorce? Is it right for people to end their marriages?”

Jesus asked them a question, “What does the law of Moses tell you?”

The leaders of the synagogue told Jesus, “The law of Moses allows the husband to give his wife a certificate of divorce. Then he can dismiss her from his house and be divorced.”

Jesus said to them, “Moses gave this law because of the people have hard hearts. Remember that God created human beings male and female. So that when a man and woman come together and are joined by God then no one can separate them.” *(Now if you have children in your group who are from families that are divorced explain to the children that marriages that break up are usually ones that are not healthy and where God has not been present – this is a sensitive subject and you will need to take the time to explain to the children what is happening here.)*

Now Jesus and his friends went into the house. Jesus continued teaching his friends when he noticed something. Some of his friends were keeping people with children from coming into the house. His friends were speaking harsh words to those families who had brought their children to be blessed by Jesus. They were telling them to go away.

Jesus asked, “Do you think the children should be kept away? Let the little ones come to me and don’t stop them. It for such little ones that the kingdom of God is coming. You need to come to God’s kingdom like a little child.”

Jesus then took up all the children one at a time, laid its hands on them and blessed each of them.

Question Mark Poster

Direct the children’s attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. Ask someone to remember why they put up a cross, the welcome sign and the jug & cup from the previous weeks. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today’s story – is it right to end a marriage? – should the children come to Jesus? Ask them what the answers to the questions were - Show them the Jesus blessing children image. Have one of the children glue it into the fourth space. Explain that for the next several weeks they will adding something to the poster to help them remember each week’s story.

1. *Synagogue*: if this is a new word for your group explain that it was the place that the Jewish people went to worship and learn more about God – much like our churches today.

Response

Project Idea 1: Blessing Cards

This will be a way for the children to share Jesus' blessing with younger children who are friends or family members.

Materials needed

- card stock of heavy construction paper
- the blessing image from the end of the lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- glitter
- stickers

Instructions

Copy the blessing image at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Fold the card stock or construction paper in half to form a card. Give each child the blessing image and have them colour it in with the markers, then cut it out and glue it onto the front of their cards. Invite them to print on the inside of the card **"Jesus will bless you every day"**. Then have them decorate the rest of the card with the stickers and if they want to add glitter have them make lines or shapes with the glue stick and shake the glitter onto the glue. Find a place for them to shake off the excess glitter. Suggest to the children that they think of a younger child or friend who could use the card and encourage them to give the card to that person.

Project Idea 2: Blessing Hug

These hugs will be a great gift for the children to give to older members of the church or to seniors and/or shut ins and be able to show them that God cares for them.

Materials needed

- newsprint
- markers
- scissors
- glitter
- glue sticks
- stickers

Instructions

Lay out a piece of newsprint on the floor and have each child lay down on the newsprint and stretch out their arms straight from their bodies. Trace around their arms with a marker. Have the child sit up and then connect the two arm shapes with the marker. Cut out the arm shape for younger children and have older children do it for themselves. When they are ready have them print with a marker the following across the inside of the arms: **Jesus blesses you everyday**. Then fold the hands into the centre so that they just overlap each other. Let the children decorate their blessing hug in any way that they want to with the markers, stickers and glitter. Invite the children to think about an older person in the church that they can give the hug to. This will be a way of sharing God's love with everyone.

Project Idea 3: Blessing Wreath

This wreath will be a way for the children to share their blessings with the whole community.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- scissors
- pencils
- glue stick
- markers
- glitter
- yarn
- strong tape

Instructions

Give each child a different colour of construction paper and have them trace one of their hands on the paper. If you have a smaller group then have each child do two or more hands. Help the younger ones to do the tracing. When everyone is ready have them cut or help them to cut out the hand shapes. Invite the children to write the word **“Bless”** in the middle of their hand shape with a marker. Then use the glue stick to ‘write’ over the word and shake some glitter on the word. Shake off the excess glitter into another container or the trash. When they are finished, lay out all the hands so that they form a circle by slightly overlapping them and then gluing the edges of each hand together. Cut a piece of yarn so that it will make a nice loop across the back (for hanging the wreath up) and use the strong tape to attach the yarn to back of the wreath. Remind the children that Jesus used his hands to bless the children in the story and that they are using their hands in the wreath to bless others in the church. With the children find a place to put up the wreath where others can see it.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**

Blessing Image

