

Jesus Blesses the Children

**Watch the video or read the story.
Answer the "I wonder" questions with your grandparents or grandparent-like figure.**

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Luke 15-18

In our story today, someone very important had just come to town. It may have happened like this...

Have you heard the news? Jesus is in town! Over and over people in town told one another the news "Jesus is here". Everyone wanted to see Jesus. Men left their work and hurried to hear him speak.

Friends and families helped sick people get near him. They had heard that he had healed others. Maybe he would heal them too. Everyone was amazed as they watched Jesus with people. They saw blind men and women see again. They laughed with the lame people who could leap and jump again. They saw mothers and fathers and children who were well again.

Everyone was helped. No one was turned away.

I wonder if you have ever seen anyone famous in person?

I wonder if your grandparents have ever told you about someone they met who was famous?

I wonder what you would say if you saw someone who was healed?

I wonder who you go to when you feel sick?

I wonder how Jesus felt when so many people came to him with their problems?

Let the Children Come to Me https://youtu.be/QPDL_xFCqhw

When some mothers heard about Jesus, they wanted to see him, too. They wanted them to bless their children. The children were excited. They were going to see Jesus. Children everywhere love Jesus. He smiled at them. He spoke kindly to them and told wonderful stories. He love the flowers and other small gifts they brought him.

Soon some of the mothers hurried through the town. They called to their friends, "Come with us to see Jesus!" Children told their friends and soon many were hurrying to see Jesus. But the mothers with small children could not go very fast. It took time for the toddlers to walk.

Finally all the mothers and children reached the crowd around Jesus. They stood in the back trying to look over all of the tall people in their way. Some of the children may have tried to crawl forward but they could not get near Jesus.

Everyone wanted to see Jesus. It seemed like everyone was pushing, trying to get nearer. The mothers felt as if it were hopeless. Could anyone help them see Jesus? Maybe his disciples would help them. The mothers led the children to the disciples.

The disciples frowned at them and shook their heads, saying, "Go away! Can't you see Jesus is busy? Can't you see he is tired?"

I wonder what kind of stories Jesus told the children?

I wonder what kind of stories Jesus' grandparents or parents told him?

I wonder why the mothers wanted their friends to come to hear Jesus speaking?

I wonder if you've ever been somewhere and you were too little to see over the heads of taller people?

I wonder how the little children felt when they couldn't get near Jesus?

I wonder what it means to be 'hopeful'?

I wonder why the disciples didn't want to let the children go and sit near Jesus?

Jesus saw what was happening. "Wait," he said. "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children."

The disciples and the crowd were amazed!

The mothers and children hurried to Jesus. He spent a long time with them. He took the children on to his lap and blessed them. Maybe he told the mothers how much he love the children. Maybe he talked about how they could raise their children to love God.

We don't know what Jesus said to the mothers and children that day but we can be sure that he was not angry with them for wanting to be with him. He was happy. He was glad to talk with them.

Jesus always loves children and parents and grandparents and he wants you to come to him today. He wants you to be a part of his family, too.

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said the kingdom of God would belong to people like little children?

I wonder why the grownups were surprised that Jesus would spend time with the children?

I wonder what you would ask Jesus if you could sit on his lap?

I wonder if you like sitting with your grandparents to listen to their stories?

I wonder what your favourite story is that your grandparents have told you or read to you?

I wonder how you could tell Jesus about yourself today?

Listen to this song:
Let the Children Come To Me -
Tommy Walker
<https://youtu.be/ElcfuQFa5GY>



St. Anne

St. Anne is the mother of the Virgin Mary and the grandmother of Jesus.

Her husband is Saint Joachim. Her name is a version of the Hebrew name Hanna. Anna means grace.



Painting by Nellie Edwards

According to tradition, Joachim went to a temple to pray, but was not allowed in because he did not have a child. Anna heard, prayed, and sacrificed.

She promised God that she would bring up a child in God's name. An angel came to Anna and Joachim and told them that God would grant her a baby.

Anna had the baby soon after, and named the girl Mary. Anna kept her promise. When Mary was about three years old Joachim and Anna brought her up to the temple. They taught Mary all about God.

St. Anne's Feast Day is July 26th. She is the patron saint of children, mothers, mothers-to-be and grandmothers. Artists often show St. Anne holding Mary in her arms.

St. Anne and St. Joachim taught Mary to trust in God and always have hope. Maybe that is why Mary said 'Yes' to God when He asked her to be the mother of Jesus. Jesus' grandparents and parents showed us how important children are to God's kingdom. They also taught us how important it is to love our family and be part of God's family too.