

# Jesus and the Children

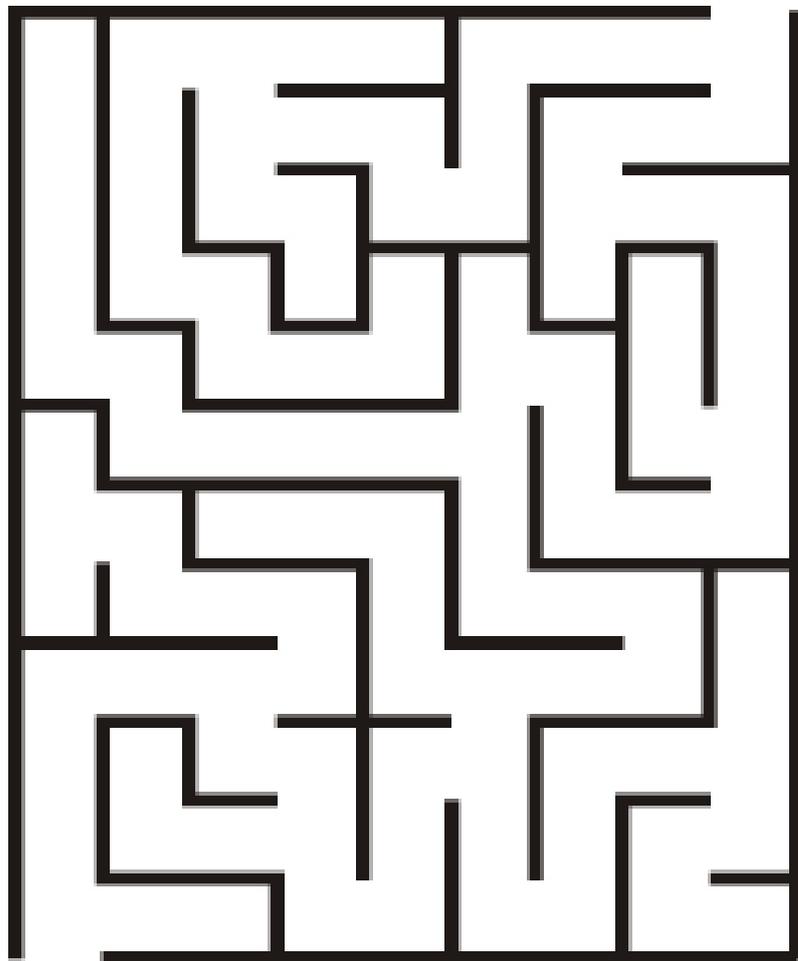
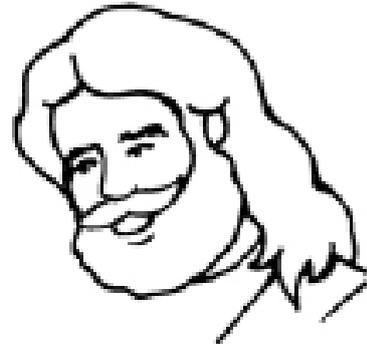
While Jesus was preaching, some children were brought to him so he could bless them. The disciples told them not to bother Jesus. But Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them.



But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Luke 18:16

What did Jesus do when the children came?



More children were brought to Jesus. Help the one in the picture find the way!

## Lesson 20 Jesus and the Children

**Bible Text:** Mark 10:13-16 or Luke 18:15-17

**Key Verse:** Luke 18:16

**Purpose:** The children will discover that Jesus loves children too.

### **Please note!**

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

### **I. Lesson**

Before working on the coloring page, start with a question: *Do you feel like you are loved and valued by your family?*

Some children do not feel like they are loved nor valued by their family. Sometimes the adults treat children poorly because they do not understand them. But the Bible says that Jesus was not bothered by the children. Instead, he held them in his arms, blessed them and prayed for them.

When the children were brought to him, the disciples did not let them see Jesus. But Jesus called for the children and let them come to him, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. He was talking, of course, about the children's innocence, because they know how to love, to forgive, etc. But let's hear what exactly the Bible says about this. (Read to the children from Mark 10:13-16 or Luke 18:15-17, then explain what was read.)

What does Jesus do with the children?

- He calls them.
- He takes them in his arms.
- He blesses them.

In the New Testament we also find other things written about this subject:

- God takes care of children's needs (Mark 9:36-37).
- God rewards those who help the little ones (Matthew 10:42).
- Adults have much to learn from children (Matthew 18:2-3).
- Jesus protects the children (Matthew 18:10).

**Suggestion:** For younger children, the teacher can sit down in the middle of them and hold one or two children while he or she is talking. At the end he or she will pray for each child, blessing them and touching them, just as Jesus did.

## **II. Activities**

### **1. The Key Verse**

a. Read the key verse out loud.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

b. Explain the Bible verse:

The response of Lord Jesus when he saw the little children:

- He called them over.
- He commands: "Let the little children come to me, do not hinder them."
- He promises: "The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

c. Help the children memorize the verse.

### **2. Review questions for the children.**

- Who did not let the children come to Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to them?
- What did Jesus say to the adults when he saw these children?
- What did Jesus do with the children?

## **III. Conclusion**

Jesus loves and respects all children, no matter if they are rich or poor, white or black, healthy or sick. He never rejects children; but protects and blesses them. If you are still a child, these things are still true for you. Do you love Jesus as much as he loves you?