

The Bible tells us that Jesus said something very important about children. About each and every one of you sitting here. Let's open our Bible and see what important thing Jesus said:

Show classroom the Bible opened to Mark 10:14:

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me"

What did Jesus say that was important? Let the little children come to me.

Let's all say that together: "Let the little children come to me." Jesus wants you all to come to know Him.

I am going to read from the Bible, every time I say the word "children" I want you to point to yourself. Let's practice: "children". Have students point to themselves. Keep practicing until they understand that when you say the word "children" they should point to themselves.

Mark 10:13-16 says:

¹³ People were bringing little children (point to self) to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples tried to stop them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was upset. He said to them, "Let the little children (point to self) come to me, and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child (point to self) will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children (point to self) in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

If students are able to remain focused, read the Bible story again and have them repeat the actions. **Good job everyone! The Bible tells us that Jesus wants each of every one of you to come to know Him! He loves you all very much. I am happy that Jesus loves us!**

The children in the Bible wanted to see Jesus and be near Him - we should want to be near Jesus too! We do that today by reading and following the Bible. We do that by coming to church services to learn about Jesus and be with our church family. We can come to Jesus!

Let's sing a song about how God loves us:

If My Name is.....

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

2) Jesus Loves Me Count the Hearts Activity

10 minutes

Hand out one "count the hearts sheet" to each child with crayons. Read the directions aloud and help the children find the hearts. They can color them in or circle them as they go. Count them as a class when done to see how many there are before moving on to the next activity. Remind them as we learned today Jesus loves us and wants



all children to come to Him! We can come to Jesus and that makes us happy!

3) Optional: Jesus Loves Children Hot Potato Memory Phrase Game 5 minutes

Have your children stand in a circle and pass a beanbag, soft ball or small teddy bear while you sing a song – maybe Jesus is My Friend. When you stop the song, the child holding the ball or teddy bear must say the phrase we have been learning today – **Jesus Loves Children!**

You can keep playing this way or have the child that said the verse stand in the middle of the circle. Keep playing until most of the children are in the middle of the circle.

You can also play this game at snack time. The child holding the beanbag when the music stops gets to sit down and have a snack. Keep playing until all the children are sitting.

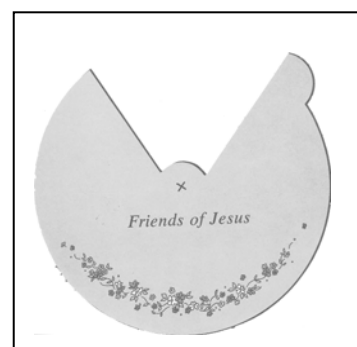
4) Jesus is My Friend Circle Craft

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet of the people and the top grey sheet to each child. Cut out before class for students too small to cut on their own. Hand out crayons as well.

Say:

Jesus is our friend, He wants us to come to know Him. Let's look at each picture and talk about who is in the picture and how they can get to know Jesus. You can color while we talk.



1. Men talking to Jesus – these men are talking to Jesus, they are wanting to get to know him better.
2. Some children with their mothers want to come and see Jesus too!
3. The men try to stop the little children from coming to see Jesus but Jesus tells the men “no”.
4. Jesus invites the little children to come to Him. Jesus loves all children and the children are so happy to go and see Jesus. Jesus loves each of you as well. We are so blessed to know that Jesus loves us all very much!

Once done, hand out one brad/paper fastener to each student and help them put the grey circle on top of the white colored sheet and fasten them together so that the children can turn the bottom page and see each group of people going to see Jesus. Help them write their names on the page when finished and get them to help clean up the crayons before moving on to the next activity.

5) Jesus Loves the Children Sheet

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with crayons. Show the students each picture by pointing and reading the words. Once you have gone through each picture and the words, sing the song as a class to the tune: “I’m a little teapot” Sing a few times and allow students to color the page while singing.

Remind students that **Jesus wants all little children to come to Him! We are going that today by coming to Sunday school and learning about Jesus and how much He loves us!**



6) Optional: Jesus Loves Children Doll and Book Play

5-10 minutes

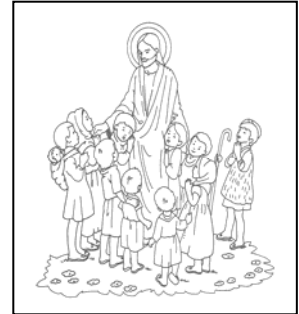
Pass around dolls, books about Jesus and Children and things that will help children remember that they learned about the fact that Jesus wants all children to come to Him.

Say, “**The Bible tells us that Jesus wants all children to come to Him. As we play with these books and dolls let’s remember the story of Jesus wanting the little children to come to Him. And let’s remember that because Jesus loves us, He blessed us church family as well as our home family. We have grandpas, fathers, sisters, aunts, moms, babies, and uncles. We have also been blessed with the people at church who love us – our Sunday school teachers, friends, evangelist, etc. We need to thank Jesus for giving us so many wonderful people that help us know that Jesus loves us!** Let students play with the dolls and books and then clean up.

7) **Optional: Jesus Loves the Children Color Page**

10 minutes

Hand out one page to each child, discuss what they see in the picture – Jesus surrounded by children. Say, **Jesus loves us and wants us all to follow Him. Let’s think about all the ways Jesus is loving towards us and is good to us while we color the page.** Hand out crayons and let children color the page while you discuss different ways Jesus shows His love for us. If you want re-read the Bible story you read earlier while they color to help remind them that Jesus loves each child.



8) **Optional: Draw Ways that Jesus Loves Us Side Walk Chalk Activity 10 minutes**

Have your children line up and hold each other’s hand and prepare to go outside where there is a safe sidewalk they can draw on with sidewalk chalk. Only do this activity if you have helpers to keep children safe and if you have a nice sunny and dry day to go outside.

Once children are safely outside. Hand out sidewalk chalk and explain that **we are only going to stay in the following areas** (tell the students the safe areas they can stay in) **If anyone goes outside of these areas, we will go back to class and this activity will end because it is very important that we all listen and stay safe. Today we learned that Jesus loves us. Let’s draw hearts and other things that remind us of all the ways that Jesus loves us and that God loves us too!**

Let the children draw different things that show that Jesus loves each child on the sidewalk with different colored chalk. Help the children think of things to draw and what that might look like. Maybe a picture of the child with hearts and a book of the Bible.

When finished, let the children see all the amazing drawings they all did and then gather the chalk, hold hands, line up and go back to the classroom.

9) **Optional: Play Dough – Jesus loves us**

10 minutes

Hand out play dough to each child, if possible letting them choose the color they want, reminding them to not mix colors so they stay the color they are now.

Remind them that **Jesus loves us and gives us many things and blessings to show His love. Let’s create some things that show all the ways Jesus loves us – maybe we make a home, food, clothes, families, friends, all the things Jesus blesses us with because He loves us!**

As the children make creations ask each student what they are making and why that shows that Jesus loves them.

When finished, have kids clean up and put play dough creations away, or if allowed, let them take one creation home each.

10) Sing

Choose songs from the Songs section of the binder and/or sing:

Sing God is Love from Church Song Books. Lyrics are written below as well.

If My Name is.....

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

Jesus loves me!

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

11) Optional Snack: Candy Hearts or Heart Cheese Sandwiches 5 minutes

Hand out candies in the shape of hearts to remind the kids that Jesus loves all children. IF you can't find that, you can use a cookie cutter and cut out cheese and two slices of bread in heart shapes and hand out to the children to build a "Love Sandwich"! Also hand out a glass of water or juice to drink to each child along with a napkin for children to clean their hands. Remind children to clean up after themselves with the napkin. While they are eating review what they learned.

12) Close in prayer

Thank You Jesus for loving us and showing Your love by giving us Your Words in the Bible, our church family and our family, homes, clothes and food. We are so happy that You loves us and want to be with us and help us. We pray that you will help us all remember that You love us and pray we will love you too! Help us to come back next Sunday and pray for those who were unable to make it today. In Jesus loving name, Amen.