

Mark 10:13-16 "Believing is Receiving"

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "**Let the children come to me**; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Reading 1.

Pray. Kids to front.

v14. J said "let the children come to me"

Q to discuss (adults and children): What do you love about Jesus? (can be anything)

Feedback- good to see that adults AND children love Jesus.

1) JESUS WELCOMES THE CHILDREN v13-14

- We are walking through Mark's gospel,
 - here's a strange thing...
 - Rebuke = tell off
 - I wonder why?
- Jesus very upset with them v14= displeased/upset/angry/furious
 - Disc get it wrong again!
 - In fact he'd already taken child in arms in 9:36 & said "*whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welc the one who sent me.*"
 - Keep getting a telling off
 - though j does it lovingly
 - doesn't get rid of them!

Why did they try to stop? (3 volunteers, 3 -ves)

1. Maybe they thought... too little to matter?

- a. what do you think?
- b. not at all true
- c. everyone matters to J
- d. in fact often in gospels it's the sad, disabled or little he stops for! - rip up!
- e. sadly in those days many thought kids weren't so important.
- f. sadly today people ignore children thinking adult conversation more important.

2. too little to give back?

- a. Q: do you get pocket money?
- b. maybe thought let side down
 - i. not **worthy** enough
 - ii. not **quiet** enough- do you think J minded noise/moving about? nor do we! normal- adults like that b4)
 - iii. J not looking for perfect behaviour. Even the adults can't do that!
 - iv. ! break something/fight someone/ knock granny over- all welcome!
- c. And You don't need to pay back Jesus.
- d. His love is a free gift!

3. too little to understand?

- a. terribly complicated?
- b. No- look 3 words! COME TO ME.
- c. All about him, servant King!
- d. Been said what the kids think of J in first 7 years of life will lay foundations for later.

➡ Lesson for the children...."let the children come"
You can come to Jesus. If you've never done it before, you can ask Jesus into your life as your King to be in charge, as your Rescuer to rescue you from the bad things you do. tsp You can say "Thank you Jesus you are King, Sorry Jesus, Please come into my life today as my rescuer & my ruler!" And he will. And he will never leave you. Yes more to learn later, but it's a person to know, not complicated. I did that when I was a child. Aged 11. If ready, **don't have to wait** to come to Jesus- tell M&D!

➡ Lesson for the adults..."let the children come"
Let the children come to Jesus. (suffer KJV).

1. parents-
 - a. read bible at home? bit each night/brek
 - b. pray with kids
 - c. learn from kids- Ps 8:2. "*out of the mouths of babies and infants you have established strength*".
2. Kids group leaders
 - a. Beth said don't underestimate what they can take in! Don't just entertain.
 - b. teach them Jesus
 - c. teach them J as Lord- king.
 - d. teach them J as Saviour- servant King.
 - i. (grace not works).
3. other adults, don't have kids or grown up-
 - a. help with kids group. So exciting.
 - b. Pay for kids to go on camp.
 - c. help with holiday club
 - d. get to know kids after church- Rod & T.

Before we sing: Q: Sarah- sparkler leader: **what do you do & how is it going?** National safeguarding day!

(kids stay seated with parents for colouring in part2)

1) Jesus welcomes the children

2) JESUS WELCOMES THE CHILDLIKE v15-16

- Just been thinking about the adults teaching the children, here the children are teaching the adults something... How to be a Christian!
- What are Kids so good at that adults have to be like it too?
- **v15**. key word.
- You have to **receive** the Kingdom- that's joining God's family by coming to Jesus as your King.
- And kids are really good at it.
- Adults need to be a kid on the inside...
- Sermon is called **"believing is receiving"**.
- If I had a £5 note here, and said who would like it, children's hands would go up, and parents think what's the catch!? or he's just doing a sermon illustration!
- ▲ London Newspaper did something special to see what people in London would do.
- Man gave out pieces of paper saying "bring this piece of paper back to me and I will give you £5" (Rico Tice tells story on Xty Explored course).
- He was there for 3 hours outside Oxford Circus tube. Only 11 people came back & got their free gift.
- Tells you- people of London (assume mainly adults) thought the flyers were a waste of time, or didn't take time to find out!

Kids are great at receiving a free gift! change pic!

They do it all the time

Q who is looking forward to Christmas?

Q what are you hoping for?

Adults you have to be childlike. Not childish, though I've been on the swings with one of the dads here! Brilliant assault course.

Adults you have to learn to receive.

Trouble is the older you get the more used you are to pulling out your wallet.

Believing is receiving not achieving.

Accept the free gift of grace which Jesus gives you!
Again and Again.

Why Kids are perfect for J Kingdom!

➡ Challenge for the "have's"

Don't try and put something on the table.

Christianity is not about achieving but receiving.

Maybe you didn't know that.

Or maybe you forgot that. GRACE!

Thought you could give something or be something to be accepted. Or maybe you are waiting to be more _____ before you come to Jesus! (godly, kind..) come as child!

But it's grace: God's riches at Christ's expense.

He died for you. He paid for you!

▲ meals out with Father in law! Humbly receive.

"Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling".

Thinking that you need to be a bit more grown up, or a bit more good before you come to Jesus. That's an attitude that **stops** people from coming to Jesus.

And it's an attitude that stops people from **growing**. Be like the kids! Everything we have we receive!

Jesus' grace is an ocean we keep coming back to, keep swimming in for acceptance grace forgiveness.

➡ Encouragement for the "have nots"

Learn from the kids, and receive a hug. I looked up the words here.

v13 they brought for J to touch the children.

v16 took the children in his arms- enfolded them in his arms and he blessed, laying hands on them.

Can you receive a hug- that's what you have to do. Receive Jesus as your Servant King

I've met people who say feel too unworthy. Great! It's for you! Let the little children come to me.

Met people who say could never be good enough for CCH. You don't have to!

For those who feel like they have about as much to give as a child's pocket money. Don't even need that!

First J doesn't want you to give. Receive.

We never have a collection! Free gift.

Once come to him, we give him our worship.

Receive Jesus as your King. who calls shots in life.

Receive Jesus as your Servant. who rescues you from your sin.

Final song; first line- **what gift of grace!** Bel is Rec.