

Explore It FOR LEADERS

FEBRUARY
SESSION 04

GOOD NEWS SHARED WITH CHILDREN

Mark 10:13-16 Jesus accepts children

In our final session on this theme, we look at the importance that Jesus placed on the life of a child. Children were put front and centre, going against the customs at that time. We explore with children their role within a church community, the impact they can have there. Look at how God can use each child – never mind their age – to share the Good News, to make a difference in this world.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Say: God created children and he thinks they are amazing. Watch this clip of amazing, talented children.

Screenshare: *Most Amazing Talented Kids Compilation* by People are awesome (3 mins 43 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNfTM0Eulbk>

Ask: Which of these skills would you most like to try?

Discuss the children's answers to the question. (But remind them that these are not stunts to be recreated.)

Say: You may not be able do as many backflips as the child at the end of the clip, but God created you to do amazing things for him.

Sing It

Today's song reminds us that we are all God's amazing children, and each of us plays an important part in his Kingdom.

'God's amazing children' by Vineyard Worship and Vineyard Kids (3 mins 34 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwlxrVLQgxA>

Tell It

Say: Children are very important to Jesus. When he was on Earth, he made sure people understood the special part that children play in his Kingdom. We can find out more about the story in Mark 10:13-16.

Screenshare: Mark 10:13-16 (ICB)

Some people brought their small children to Jesus so he could touch them. But his followers told the people to stop bringing their children to him. When Jesus saw this, he was displeased. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children. I tell you the truth. You must accept the kingdom of God as a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it.' Then Jesus took the children in his arms. He put his hands on them and blessed them.

Video

● **Say:** Now that we have read the story together in the Bible, let's recap what happened as we watch the clip.

Screenshare: Jesus and the children by Saddleback Kids (1 min 17 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPUMDVBO7dY>

● **Say:** The people wanted Jesus to place his hands on their children to bless them.

Discuss

- Why do you think the disciples tried to turn the children away?
- How did Jesus respond when the disciples tried to stop the children?
- What did Jesus say to the disciples?

● **Say:** In the time of Jesus, children were not seen as important at all, and were encouraged to stay out of the way. Jesus didn't see it that way and asked the children to come and be with him.

Ask:

- How do you think you would have felt if you were one of the children who went to sit with Jesus?
 - What question would you have asked him?
- **Say:** Jesus wants everyone, including grown-ups, to come to him like little children who are ready to learn from him and to love him with all their hearts.

Action It

● **Say:** Jesus sees you as an important part of his Church. You don't have to wait until you are a grown-up to play your part.

● **Say:** In our January sessions we spent time learning more about the five mission priorities of The Salvation Army.

Ask: Can you remember what any of them are?

- To share the good news
- To serve others without discrimination
- To nurture disciples of Jesus
- To care for creation
- To seek justice and reconciliation

Leaders can refer back to the January *Explore It* material where Session 4 describes each Mission Priority in more detail.

● **Say:** As The Salvation Army, we are called to share, serve, nurture, care and seek. All of these actions help us to love God and love others. (Your group may remember the actions they created for each word.)

Ask: Think about how Jesus loves children. Do you think he just wants the grown-ups to share, serve, nurture, care and seek? If not, why not?

Ask the children to write 'Love God, Love others' at the top of a piece of paper. Then ask them to draw five large bubbles. In the top of each of the bubbles write the words 'Share', 'Serve', 'Nurture', 'Care' and 'Seek' (one in each bubble).

Give the children time to write down one way they can live out the mission priorities of The Salvation Army in each of the bubbles. Share the ideas together as a group and ask the children to choose one to work on over the coming weeks.

● **Say:** Jesus loves you and you are a special part of God's Kingdom. Never forget how precious you are to him.

Pray It

● **Say:** Over the past four weeks we have discovered how important it is for us to share the Good News about Jesus with those who don't know him. Today we have been reminded how much Jesus loves us, but he asks us to share that love with others.

● **Say:** As you listen to the music, write a prayer thanking God for his love for you, and then ask God to bring people into your life that you can talk to about the good news of Jesus.

'Jesus loves me' by Christy Nockels (3 mins 47 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OhUHH0Oim8

When the music finishes, ask one of the children to share their prayer.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.