

Luke 18:15–17

Jesus Loves the Children

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

KEY TEXT “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” Luke 18:16

⇒ *Show the Bible.* The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

We have been learning about the life of Jesus. We learned about miracles that Jesus did, like when He fed 5,000 people with just a little food, healed a man and calmed a storm! And last week we started learning about how Jesus loved sinners.

Today, we are learning a story from the Bible about how Jesus loved children just like you. Children are people, and God made people precious. He made each person in his own likeness—the imago dei. *Point to the children.*

Jesus had some very good friends and followers called His disciples. Sometimes the disciples did some silly or unhelpful things. One day, lots and lots of people were coming to hear Jesus teach about God. Not only were grownups coming to hear Jesus teach, but mommies and daddies were also bringing their children to see and hear Jesus. The parents wanted Jesus to spend time with their children.

The disciples were getting mad at the parents who were bringing their children to talk with Jesus! Can you show me a mad face? The disciples told the parents to take the little children away. *Point away from the group.*

The disciples didn’t think that Jesus had enough time to play with children. The disciples thought that Jesus needed to do something “more important” than spend time with children. *Show the picture of the disciples stopping the children.*

When Jesus heard that the disciples were telling the parents and children to go away, He stopped the disciples and reminded His disciples how much He loved spending time with children. *Show the picture of Jesus talking to the disciples.*

Jesus wanted all the children to come to Him. Jesus had to remind His disciples how much **God Wants to Talk With Us.**

📖 Jesus said—*Read Luke 18:16 from the Bible.*

Show the picture of Jesus with the children.

Jesus wanted to talk with the children who were coming to see Him. He wanted to hear what they said and wanted to tell them about God. He wanted to remind them children are precious to God. **God Wants to Talk With Us!**

✈️ Jesus knew that children are special! He wanted to talk with the children and teach them about God. Jesus loves children just like you! Jesus wants to talk with us, too! **God Wants to Talk With Us!** We do not bother Him. We are important and special to Jesus—not because of what we do or how helpful or good we are. When we love and trust Jesus, we can talk with Him anytime. We can talk with Jesus through prayer. *Make praying hands.* And God talks with us through the Bible, His true Word. *Show the Bible.* God loves us and always wants to talk with us!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Wants to Talk With Us.” 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God

Wants to Talk With Us,” with praying hands. 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Wants to Talk With Us!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Wants to Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for talking with us through the Bible and prayer.

Review Questions

- This is where we are in God’s Big Story. *Point in-between “Jesus Is Born” and “Jesus Dies on the Cross” circles on the timeline.*
- Who were the disciples? (*Jesus’ very good friends and followers*)
- Who was trying to come and talk with Jesus? (*lots of people, including mommies and daddies and little children*)
- When the disciples saw that parents were bringing their kids to see and talk with Jesus, what did the disciples do? (*They told the parents to take their children and go away.*)

Why did the disciples tell the parents to take their children away from Jesus? *(They thought Jesus was too busy to talk to children and that Jesus had more important things to do.)*

Did Jesus want to talk with the children? *(Yes!)*

Did Jesus think that He was too busy or too important to talk with children? *(No!)*

What are some ways that we can talk with God? *(Prayer, singing, reading the Bible)*

Let's say our foundational truth together: *"God Wants to Talk With Us!"*