

*When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.*

Program A-1

## Jesus Blesses the Children

Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17

Easter Series: Lesson #1

Bible Verse: **Jesus blessed the children. Mark 10:16**

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Jesus loves children

Prop ideas: Puppets/dolls to act out the Bible Story

Crown (represent king and his importance), children are more important than a king

Songs: *Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world / Jesus loves me*

### SAMPLE STORY

Jesus was out teaching the crowds. Many people were bringing little children to Jesus and asking that he touch them and pray for them. There were so many people always wanting to see Jesus. The disciples of Jesus (his followers) thought that Jesus was too busy to spend time with the children. They told the parents not to waste Jesus' time. But they were wrong! Children are very important to Jesus. Jesus told his disciples "Let the little children come to me. Do not keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to ones like these." Can you imagine the children running to Jesus? Maybe they ran and jumped in his arms. Once they came to him, he placed his hands on them and blessed them. Jesus wants you to know that you are important, too. He wants to bless you as well.

FYI

Second Session Classes will be:

Making Popsicle Puppets

Coloring "Jesus Loves the Children" Page

Having a Maze Race

## TEACHER EXTRA: A PARENT'S BLESSING

Because we experienced many difficulties as we attempted this activity in the past, it is being brought back as an EXTRA activity. I encourage each teacher to consider giving the extra effort to make this work. The reports from the classes where it worked were awesome! Our children want to be blessed. Let's make it happen. (If you choose to do this activity, you should omit the Written Parents' Blessing)

**Teachers will need to secure their own tape recorder.** Please be sure that it is a simple one to operate. (No tricky buttons to push for recording). Set up a table in the hallway with the recorder, tape and instructions.

**IMPORTANT!!! Be sure that when the parents drop off their children, that they read and follow the instructions**

If a child is missed, you or another Joyland worker should record one.

Instructions for  
A PARENT'S BLESSING

Dear Parents,

After your child goes into his/her room, please record a special message to your son or daughter. Begin by saying their name and telling them that it is you. (Daniel, this is mommy). Give them a special blessing by telling them how much you love them, how wonderful they are and how you pray that God will bless them and give them a wonderful life. These 15 to 30 seconds will be very special to them.

This activity is as much for you as for your child. We need to learn to bless our children with praise and God's blessing for success. We should pray for them to become strong in the LORD, to grow in His wisdom. They need to HEAR this from us as parents.

Your Joyland Teachers

## WRITTEN PARENTS' BLESSING

Materials: Blessing Pages  
Pens

Do: As parents drop off their children, give them a Blessing Page and ask them to follow the instructions. (Provide a pen if necessary). They should hand the sheet back to you when finished.

**IMPORTANT: If a child was missed by a parent, please write a blessing from you as his teacher. No child should be omitted during the group time.**

Read the Parent Blessings to the children in class during a group time (snack or before story time).

Save for parents and children to take home.

Talk About: We feel good when someone blesses us and says good things about us. Jesus wants us to know that it is important to bless each other. He also wants you to know that children are very important. He took time to be with children and to bless them.

## PARACHUTE FUN

Materials:            Large Flat Bed Sheet  
                            Ball  
                            Newspaper

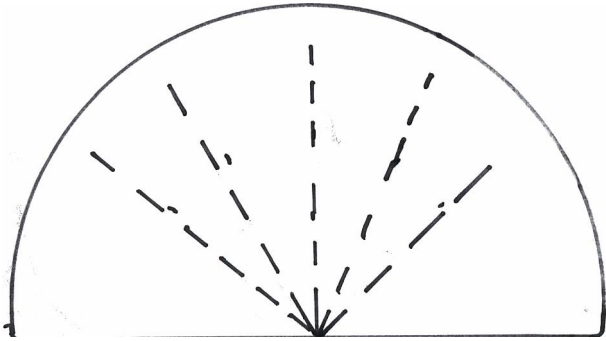
Do:                     Have the children gather around the sheet and grab an edge with both hands. Toss the ball onto the sheet. Move the sides up and down to make the ball roll around. See if you can 'toss' the ball into the air.  
                            Rip newspaper pages in half and crumple into balls. Toss onto center of sheet. Wave sheet up and down quickly to try to 'pop' the balls off like popcorn.  
                            Sing 'I have a good friend and <Mary> is her name.' Mary should run under the sheet as you are raising and lowering it. She comes out after 2 or 3 up/downs, and runs to another side. Repeat with others. Be sure each child gets equal turns.

Talk about:            Just like we call you to run under the 'parachute,' Jesus called all the little children to come to him. He still calls us today, but in our hearts.

## PAPER PLATE CROWNS

Materials:            Paper plates  
                  Markers or Crayons            (In room)  
                  Scissors                            (In room)

Do:                    Fold a paper plate in half. Make 5 cuts from the center of the folded edge to an inch from the outer curved edge. Open the paper plate. Fold the triangles to make them stand up like points on a crown. Let the children decorate their crowns with crayons or markers.



Talk about:            Jesus said that the greatest in the kingdom of heaven are children. We are more important to him than even KINGS!