



April 19, 2026

Teacher – Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts

LESSON OUTLINE (Text Mark 9:36-37, 42; Mark 10:13-16)

1. True Greatness is Welcoming the “Least” (Mark 9:36-37)
2. The Danger of Causing Stumbling (Mark 9:42)
3. The Kingdom and Childlike Faith (Mark 10:13-16)

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes Jesus teaches by what He says, and sometimes He teaches by what He does. In today’s lesson, He uses a child—someone people often overlooked—to show us what really matters in God’s eyes. As we study, we will learn how to

- Welcome those who are often overlooked
- Be careful about the example we set
- Trust God with a simple, childlike faith

LESSON OVERVIEW

I. TRUE GREATNESS IS WELCOMING THE “LEAST” (Mark 9: 36-37 (NIV))

36. He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them,

37. Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.

The Truth: Jesus shows that how we treat those who seem small or unimportant reflects how we treat Him.

The Lesson: Welcoming and caring for those who cannot repay us is what matters most to God.

Life Thought: Greatness in God's Kingdom is seen in how we treat the least.

II. THE DANGER OF CAUSING STUMBLING (Mark 9:42 (NIV))

42 If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.



The Warning: Jesus gives a serious warning about causing others, especially the young in faith, to stumble.

The Lesson: Our influence matters. What we say and do can help someone grow in faith— or cause them to stumble.

Life Thought: Use your life to encourage others, not discourage them.

III. THE KINGDOM AND CHILDLIKE FAITH (Mark 10:13-16 (NIV))

- 13.** People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.
- 14.** When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder 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 will never enter it.”
- 16.** And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.



The Conflict: The disciples tried to push children away, thinking Jesus had more important things to do. But Jesus was indignant—deeply displeased.

The Lesson: God desires a childlike faith—one that trusts Him, stays humble, and depends on Him.

Life Thought: Faith is not about having all the answers, but about trusting the One who does.

Life Application

- Be mindful of how I treat others, especially those often overlooked
- Use my words and actions to strengthen someone's faith
- Trust God more in this area of my life: _____
- Pray for a more humble and dependent heart

Closing: True greatness is not found in power or position, but in humility, love and childlike trust in God. What the world often overlooks, God values—and so should we.

