

Bible Discovery

Hold up the Bible. **Today our Bible story tells how Jesus welcomed children. That's because Jesus loves everyone!** *(Thank you, Jesus!)*

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- ❓ **Who is another child you love?** Briefly share an answer from your own life, then invite kids to answer in Crews.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Jesus loves everyone. *(Thank you, Jesus!)* **He loves every child we talked about. They're all important! But a long time ago when Jesus lived on the earth, people didn't think kids were as important as grown-ups. It was as if the grown-ups didn't want to see them. Let's see if we can get someone to see and notice us.**

- Have a Crew Guide helper stand in front of all the kids. He or she should try to look straight ahead without smiling.
- Have kids wave, laugh, or do silly things to try to make the Crew Guide notice them and smile.
- When the Crew Guide smiles, choose someone else to stand in front and try not to smile.
- After initiating another smile, have kids each give a friend a high-five and then sit with their Crews again.

We don't have to be silly to get Jesus to notice us. He always sees us and loves us just as we are. Jesus loves everyone. *(Thank you, Jesus!)* **And Jesus noticed the kids in our Bible story. Let's see what happened!**

 Read aloud Luke 18:15.

Parents brought their kids to meet Jesus. Let's talk about this in our Connect Crews.

- ❓ **If you could meet Jesus right now, what would you tell him about?** Share an idea from your own life.
- Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.
- Ask for a few responses from the whole group.

Thanks for sharing. We'd have a good talk with Jesus! The children in our Bible story almost didn't get to talk to Jesus, though, because Jesus' friends didn't think Jesus wanted to see them. So they said to the parents, "Take those kids away! Jesus is doing something important right now!" Do what I do!

- Wag fingers like you're scolding someone.
- Pretend to shoo kids away with the wave of a hand.
- Make a sad face to show how the kids might have felt when they were shooed away.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Jesus Welcomes Children" Bible Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

 Read the verse from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. Don't worry—we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.

Welcome a few responses. Be sure to summarize what kids say so everyone can hear.



Jesus loves everyone. *(Thank you, Jesus!)* The kids didn't need to be sad, because Jesus told them to stay! Let's find out what he said.



Read aloud Luke 18:16.

Jesus didn't wag his finger or shoo away the kids. He welcomed them!

- Show the Bible Story poster.
- Crew Guides spread arms wide and welcome everyone into a group hug.
- Kids take turns opening arms while everyone else rushes in for a fun group hug.



Read aloud Luke 18:17.

Jesus explained that grown-ups can learn from kids about how to love God and be his friends. Let's practice some things kids can teach grown-ups. Do what I do!

- **Kids can teach adults to notice little things—like bugs!** Pretend to be a bug.
- **Kids can teach adults how to be silly and smile.** Make a silly face.
- **Kids can teach adults how to ask for help.** Raise your hand and say, "Help me, please!"

Kids, you have a special friendship with Jesus. He loves you and wants to be your friend! Jesus loves everyone! *(Thank you, Jesus!)*



Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.