

# Growing Together

## Bible Story

Jesus welcomes the children  
(Matthew 18:1-6; 19:13-15).

**Jesus Cares 9:**  
Jesus cares  
about children.

## Bible Verse

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me.’ ”  
(Matthew 19:14a).

## In Touch

Today your child learned that Jesus cares about children. The children learned that God offers special protection to children and that children can praise God and serve God as well as anyone else. Use these activities with your family this week to celebrate the spirit of fun and innocence that makes childhood precious.

### Kids' Night

---

Make the children in your family feel appreciated. Choose one night to be Kids' Night. Devote the entire evening to your child. Leave the dishes; forget the evening paper—just have fun with your child. Play games, listen to music, bundle up and play outdoors in the moonlight, enjoy popcorn and apple cider around a fire. As you tuck your child into bed, read or tell a story and tell about how excited you were when he or she became part of your family. Hug your child, and ask God to take special care of the little one you've been entrusted with.

### Winter Scenes

---

Create a scene that shows all of the fun things children like to do outside in winter. Sprinkle baby powder into a small bowl. Have your child dip a cotton swab in the powder and draw pictures on a piece of dark blue or black paper. Spray the finished artwork with hair spray to keep the powder from rubbing off. Talk about the picture as you enjoy hot chocolate together. Then thank God for creating children so full of fun and energy. Be sure to say a special thank you to God for your own child.

### Horton's Who

---

Check out Dr. Seuss' *Horton Hears a Who!* from your public library. Read it together. It's about an elephant that discovers that a person's a person no matter how small. In spite of much ridicule, Horton works hard to save a village of microscopic people. After you read the book, ask your child if small people are more important than big people, if young people are better than old, if rich people are better than poor people, if people of one nationality deserve more than other people. Ask your child why God made people so different. Talk about what you can do to help all kinds of people learn about God.

### Child Care

---

Many children in the world live in poverty. In fact, one in five children in our own country lives in poverty, and children are helpless to change their situations for the better. Explain to your child that many others in the world don't have the advantages he or she has. Set a bowl or plate in the middle of your kitchen table. Ask your family members to put their spare change in the bowl this week. Children in your family who don't have spare change could be paid a quarter for small jobs around the house, and that money could be put in the bowl. At the end of the week, donate the money to a relief agency or local charity that helps children.