

Jesus Loves Children

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

One day, some parents had heard that Jesus was coming. They wanted their children to meet Jesus! So they called their children. They probably washed the children's faces. They combed the children's hair. The mothers probably made sure their children were wearing clean clothes. Then off the families went toward the place where Jesus was.

As these families walked closer, they could see that Jesus was busy. He was talking to some grown-ups. But those mothers and fathers wanted their children to meet Jesus! They probably took their children's hands. They went in and out and around the crowd of people. Soon they were close to Jesus. They must have been happy and excited! But just then, some of Jesus' friends stopped the families.

"Stand back!" they said. "Jesus is too busy to see children."

The children and their mothers and fathers felt so sad! They turned to walk away. But wait! They heard Jesus say something.

"Let the children come to Me!" Jesus said. "Do not send the children away. I love children. I want to see them!" Jesus had not wanted His friends to send the children away at all!

Jesus' friends must have felt a little silly. They were surprised that Jesus cared so much about children. Jesus thought that children were just as important as grown-ups.

So the children came to Jesus. Some children probably ran to hug Him. Some children may have stood shyly near Him. A few probably climbed right up onto His lap. Jesus put His arms around them. He prayed for each child. The children must have felt very happy! The children knew that Jesus loved them.

Paper People Banner

Collect

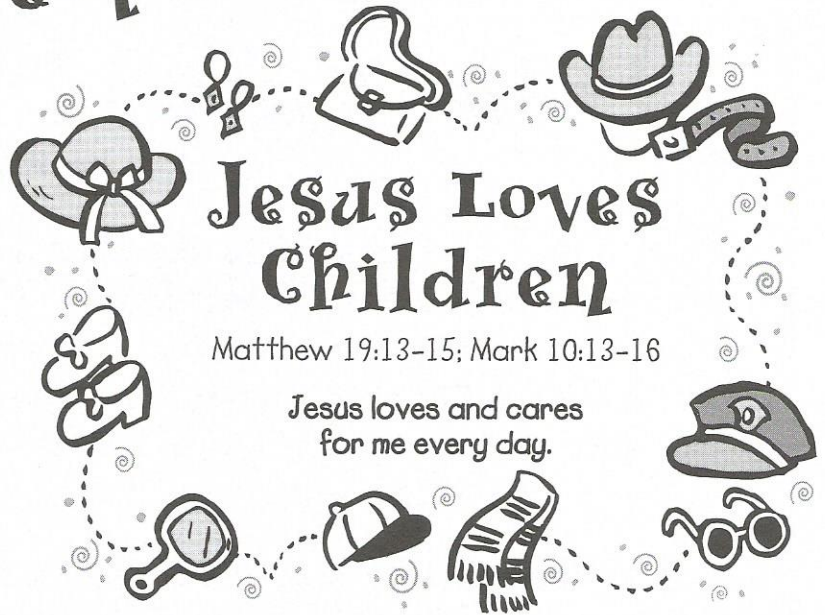
Bible, white paper, scissors, markers, art materials (yarn, fabric or wallpaper scraps, wiggle eyes, etc.), glue, stapler.

Prepare

Fold white paper and cut out paper dolls (see sketch a), preparing approximately four dolls for each child. On a separate sheet of white paper, print the words "Jesus loves us!"

Do

1. Children use markers and art materials to create facial features and clothing on paper dolls.
2. As children complete dolls, staple doll hands together, forming a paper-doll banner. Staple sheet of paper with "Jesus loves us!" between two of the doll sections (see sketch b). Display banner in classroom or hallway.



Jesus Loves Children

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Jesus loves and cares
for me every day.

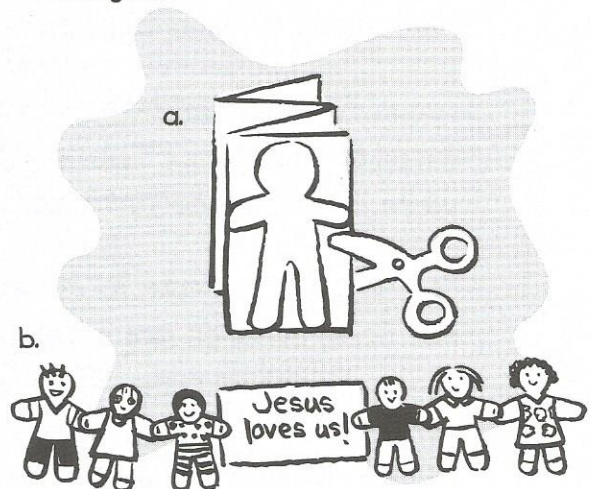
Talk About

- ☀ In today's Bible story, Jesus told His friends to let children come to see Him. Jesus loves and cares for all the children in the world! Let's make a banner of children.
- ☀ Jayce, I like the happy faces you are drawing. How do you feel when you think about Jesus loving us? Jesus' love makes me feel happy!
- ☀ Jesus wanted to see the children because He loves all children! Jesus loves and cares for us each day. Jose, what are some good things Jesus helps you have because He loves you?



Enrichment Ideas

1. Instead of providing precut paper dolls, make paper-doll patterns on poster board, preparing a pattern for each child. Older children trace around patterns on construction paper and cut out paper dolls.
2. Instead of providing a variety of art materials, provide different types of markers (gel, glitter, etc.) to create facial features and clothing on paper dolls.





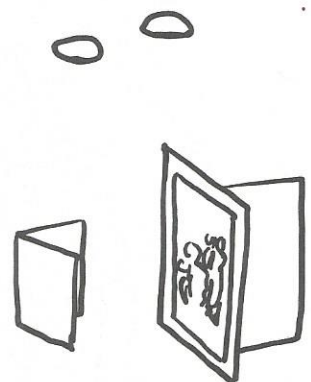
Jesus Blesses Children

Mark 10:13-16

Many parents brought their children to Jesus. They wanted the children to meet Jesus. Jesus' helpers said, "Go away! Jesus is too busy."
 Jesus was sad to hear His helpers say such a thing. Jesus opened His arms, scooped the children onto His lap, and blessed them.

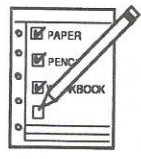
Meeting Jesus Picture

Color the picture. Your teacher will help you make the picture stand up. Pretend that you are next in line to meet Jesus. Think about what you would say to Him. We can talk to Jesus every day when we pray.



Folded Paper

Finished Picture

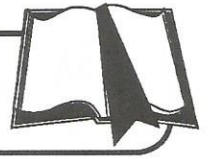


For the Teacher: Provide a sheet of construction paper for each child. After the children color, talk about how exciting it would be to meet Jesus in person, like the children in the picture. Ask children what they would say to Jesus if He visited them. Fold the construction paper in half, widthwise, and help children glue their pictures onto it so the pictures will stand up.

Jesus Loves Me Hat

Jesus Blesses Children

Mark 10:13-16



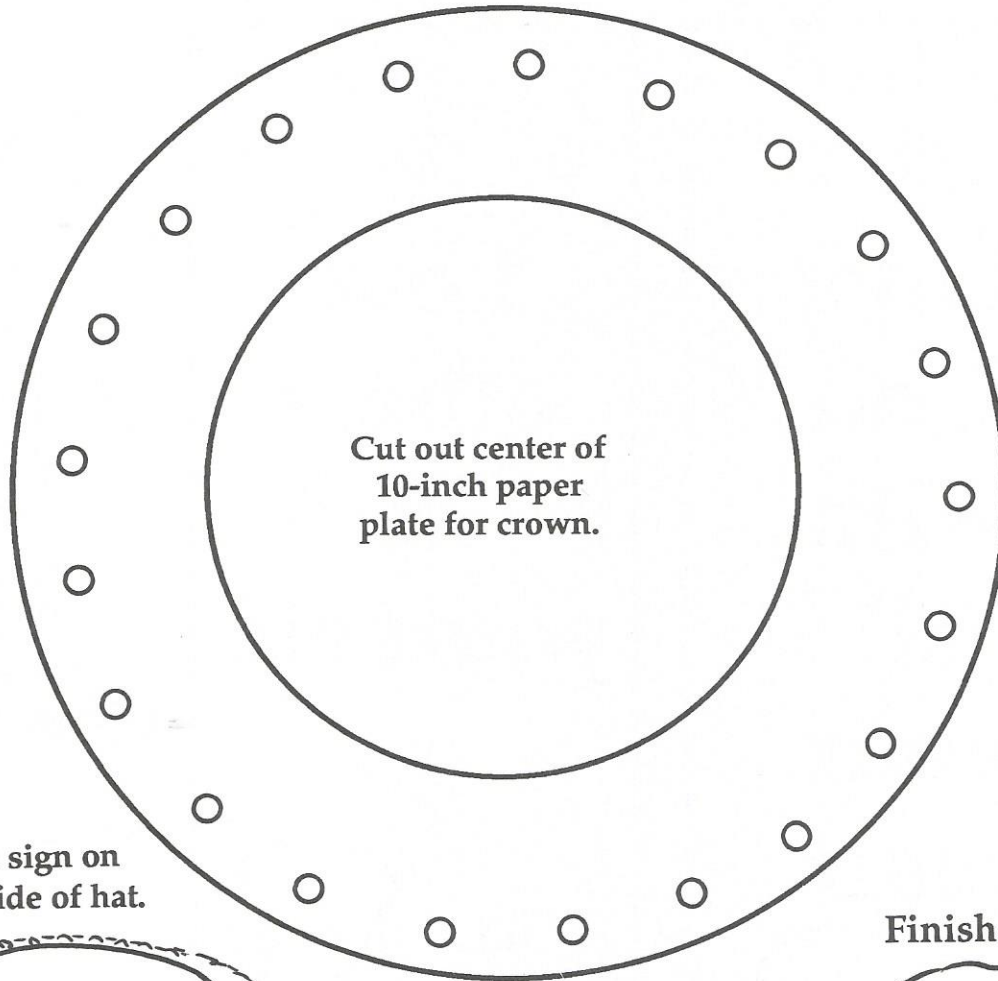
You can make a hat to wear to remind you how much Jesus loves you.

You can wear this hat two ways. With the brim down, you can pretend to be an explorer, a construction or oil worker, or a rice farmer.

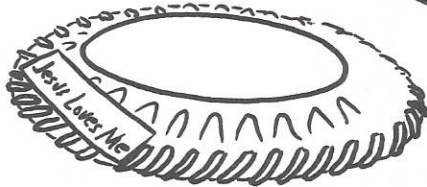
With the brim up, you can be a sailor, a

farmer or a cowboy. Can you think of other people you can pretend to be?

Wherever you are, or whatever you do, this hat will help you remember that Jesus loves you.



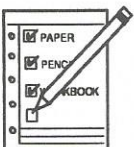
Glue a sign on each side of hat.



Finished Hat



Jesus Loves Me



For the Teacher: Provide large, sturdy white paper plates and two Jesus Loves Me signs for each child. Use a craft knife to cut 5- or 6-inch circles from centers so the brims will fit comfortably on the children's heads. Use a hole punch to punch holes 1 1/2-inches apart around the brim. Help children lace bright yarn around the brim, and glue the Jesus Loves Me signs on their hats. Talk about how much Jesus loves us, wherever we are.



Jesus loved the children.
"Let the children come to me," He said.
"Do not stop them."

Mark 10:13-16