

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – May 30, 2021**

**Theme: Lessons from the Life of Jesus**

**Topic: Jesus: His Ministry to Children**

**Main Text: Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 18:1-6**

**Key verse: Luke 18:16:** *“But Jesus called them to Him and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.” (NKJV)*

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**INTRODUCTION:** There are several passages of Scripture which clearly show God’s concern for the spiritual wellbeing of children. One such passage is Deuteronomy 6:7. God commanded: *“You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up”* (NKJV). In fact, the 10 Commandments has one specifically directed at children *“Honor your father and your mother ...”* (Exodus 20:12). But it seems like God’s concern for children, as shown in Scripture, has been forgotten or overtaken by other things, as demonstrated by the response of Jesus’ disciples in Luke 18:15.

1. **(a) Read Luke 18:15. Why do you think the disciples rebuked the people and tried to keep the children away from Jesus? In what ways do you see similar attitudes demonstrated towards children in our Churches and religious gatherings? (b) Read Matthew 18:14; Luke 18:16. What do Jesus’ statements teach us about His heart towards children? (c) How do you think the general attitude of parents in our church and society compares with that of Jesus?**

This practice of disciples trying to protect their master from supplicants is an age old one. In 2 Kings 4:27, it took Elisha’s intervention to keep Gehazi from pushing the Shunamite woman away. It could be that the disciples of these prophets and teachers were concerned that others respect the time and physical space around their teachers. This is understandable considering how busy these teachers can be. If that is so, it is no surprise then that Jesus’ disciples would want to protect Jesus’ time and physical space. Thus, they viewed the bringing of children to Him as a possible distraction or a nuisance. This mindset is often behind the reason many parents entrust their children to the care of house helps during Church service or other ‘important’ occasions. But in Luke 18: 16, Jesus disagreed with that popular notion about children. Apart from disagreeing, Jesus also stated emphatically that, *“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”* (Matthew 18:14). And His action matched that statement: On numerous occasions, Jesus ministered to children - healed children suffering from physical and spiritual affliction -healed a wealthy man’s son (John 4:46-52); cast a demon out of a Greek woman’s daughter (Mark 7:24-30); raised Jarius’ daughter from the dead (Luke 8:40-56). He came for everyone; that includes children.

2. **(a) Read Mark 16:15; John 3:16. What does this tell us about the need to minister to children? (b) How, in your view, should Jesus’ statement in Matthew 18:6,14 affect our attitude towards the spiritual nurture of children (ours and those of others around us)? (c) Read Proverbs 22:6; Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 3:14-15. What are some benefits of ministering to children?**

Young, old, rich, or poor, we are all God’s children. Moreover, because children are powerless, they are often overlooked in most cultures. So, apart from showing and teaching us His heart for children, Jesus often used children to portray and teach some deep spiritual truths. For instance, when His disciples were debating about who the greatest in God’s kingdom is, Jesus used a little child to teach them what God’s kingdom is like (Matthew 18:1-4). Also, in Luke 18:16-17, Jesus said that the kingdom of God belonged to persons like children.

3. **(a) In John 6:5-13, Jesus accepted the little boy’s loaves and fish for the feeding of the 5000. What can we learn from that incident? (b) What is it about children that Jesus was trying to draw His disciples’ (our) attention to in Matthew 18:3-5, Luke 18:16-17? (c) How do you think this relates to you?**

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**Prayer:** *Our father, we thank You for the privilege to be called Your children. Thank You also for all the little children and the youth amongst us. Help us to take our responsibility for their spiritual nurture more seriously. And to become more childlike in our trust in You. In Jesus Name Amen*