

Promotion Weekend

Jesus Wants You Here!

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16, Luke 9:46-48, Matthew 18:6, John 21:14-15

Memory Verse: Mark 10:14b “[Jesus said] *Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.*”

Lesson Focus: This is our first weekend with the newly promoted kids! In addition to welcoming kids into their new classes with joy and excitement we will cover some famous words of Jesus that are the heart and soul of Kids Ministry at RMC. Looking at each of the four gospels we will see just how special kids are to Jesus. And if we are to be His church, we better be about making them feel like they are welcome here!

Activities and Crafts: Jesus with Kids Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson

Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: I Belong Here

Starter Activity: Claim Your Kingdom

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship with an activity that should help welcome them into their new “kingdoms”. (This is what we call the area that each grade has all to themselves in the Summit Room just outside their classroom door).

Q: What are some things that you put your name on? (i.e. lunchboxes, Bibles, etc.)

(**Teachers:** I plan to bring in a couple of things that have my name on it. * I’d like to invite you to do the same. It can be something from your childhood or something that you still use today! I’ll invite a couple of you who bring something in to briefly “show and tell” during this large group introduction!)

Q: Why do you put your names on these things? A: Because they are YOURS! If it gets lost, you can better find it this way! *

Well, in the same way the areas or “kingdoms” that you are all sitting in are YOURS! This is where you will be singing, worshiping, and learning at RMC kids ministry for the next year! So, take a few minutes to “claim your kingdom” by writing your name down on the floor! (**Teachers:** At this point we will pass out markers to kids and have them take a few minutes to write their names on the fresh white tape that we have laid down for them). *

Your leaders are glad you are here in your new classrooms!

Q: But who else do you think is even more glad you are here? **Jesus!** We’re going to look at a few different passages in the Bible today that shows that. Let’s take a look! *

Bible Study:

Teachers: We are going to study verses from each of the four gospels. We want the kids to see that in each account Jesus makes a BIG DEAL about kids! **Mark 10:13-16** is also on the back of our Kids Ministry shirts and is the “biblical backbone” of our ministry! * So, we will start there.

Mark 10:13a: This is one of the most precious passages in all of the Scriptures! While Jesus was teaching a crowd of grownups about a very serious topic it appears that others came to Him, maybe even interrupting His teaching.

Q: Who did it say that they were bringing to Jesus? A: Little kids just like you, probably even younger!

Mark 10:13b: It says that Jesus’s disciples rebuked or told them to stop and go away. *

Q: Did Jesus’s disciples think that Jesus had time for kids? A: NO!

Q: Why do you think the disciples did this? *

A: Probably because they didn’t think kids were important enough for Jesus. We shall see about that!

Mark 10:14a: It says that Jesus was GREATLY displeased! * He abruptly corrects the disciples and says to them, “*Don’t you DARE keep the kids from coming to Me!*”

Q: So, was Jesus upset at the kids or His disciples? A: The disciples!

Mark 10:14b: And He stopped whatever He was doing, opened up His arms, and invited these kids to come. Why? Because kids ARE important to Jesus! *

Mark 10:15: Then He looks back at His disciples and has a very important lesson for them: If you want to truly follow Me and enter My kingdom, become like a child!

Q: WHAT? Does that mean once you grow up you can’t follow Jesus anymore? NO!

Rather, Jesus would have us grownups learn something from you kids: you boys and girls are faith EXPERTS! You trust and believe in God and His Word with an ease that us grownups struggle with. * It is the wonderful child-like faith and trust in God that you hold so well that Jesus wants ALL people to have in Him!

Mark 10:16: I can just imagine the disciples’ jaws dropping to the ground right now as Jesus stopped whatever He was doing to receive these kids into His arms!

Now let’s remember Who Jesus is! He is not just some nice guy that likes kids. **He is the Creator of the whole universe!** He is the all-powerful God in Whom all things hold together (**Colossians 1:17**). * The most powerful Being in the whole universe opens up His arms and gently welcomes even little kids to come and be His.

And He had to correct the grownups who thought kids were not important. This isn’t the only time. Let’s look at another one (**Teachers:** At this point we will transition into Luke’s gospel)

Luke 9:46: Jesus's followers are thinking about their own greatness and they are even arguing about who among them would be the greatest!

Q: When you think of greatness, what comes to mind? Power? Fame? Glory? *

Luke 9:47: Wait! Q: Who did Jesus take from the crowd to teach them about REAL power and strength in God's kingdom? A: A child, maybe someone just like you! *

Luke 9:48: Jesus says if you want to be great in His kingdom, make yourself small...just like a child. You know why? Because when you get your eyes off of yourself, you are able to focus on Him and see the needs of others! *

He also challenged those grownups to receive, honor, and make a big deal about kids. That is something we hope you will experience in your new classrooms this year! Now let's look at another gospel to see what Jesus has to say about those who do not honor and treat kids in this way (**Teachers:** Now flip over to Matthew's gospel).

Matthew 18:6: WHOA! Did you hear that? Jesus thinks kids are so important that He reserves the most severe punishment for those who dishonor kids by leading them away from Him and into sin! * Jesus would not have said this if He didn't think kids were important!

Finally, let's look at the last gospel to see how Jesus would instead have grownups receive, honor, and treasure kids (**Teachers:** Finally flip over to John's gospel).

John 21:14: This takes place shortly after Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He has appeared to His disciples now for the third time and they are eating breakfast together.

John 21:15a: Jesus has some business to take care of with Peter. Remember Peter had denied Him three times. Now Jesus is restoring Peter by asking him if he truly loves Him.

John 21:15b: Peter says he does, but then Jesus says **prove it** by "*feeding His lambs.*"

Q: Who do you think Jesus's lambs are? *

A: Believers and followers of Him. And I think perhaps the littlest one's just like you!

Jesus wants Peter to be a good shepherd/leader who feeds Jesus's sheep.

Q: What do you think Peter is supposed to give to or "feed" these lambs?

A: The Bible, the Word of God! (**Matthew 4:4**)

Key Point: And this is exactly what we will do every time you come to our RMC Kids classes. We are committed to sharing the Word of God with you every week. If Jesus thinks it is important, so should we!

Q: So, what have we seen across all four gospel accounts now?

A: Kids are a BIG DEAL to Jesus! Your young life matters greatly to God!

Every time you come to RMC we want to show you and remind you that Jesus loves you and that you BELONG here and are welcome here. Your leaders are excited to get to know you and teach you about Jesus this new year! Enjoy getting to know them!

Small Group Time Afterwards: Please take some time to get to know the kids better afterwards. We will provide a “get to know you game” and M&Ms that you can consider using to become better acquainted with the kids. * We would also encourage you to introduce your class to the Compassion kid in your room and remind them about the giving jar that goes to that kid.

1st/2nd grade leaders: See the craft which the kids can decorate and put their name on. Instead of sending them home with the craft, collect them and staple * them to the bulletin boards in your room!

3rd-5th grader leaders: We will supply your room with fresh prayer request sheets * that kids can fill out and give to you. Take them home and commit to praying for your kids throughout the week!