



## JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

### Slide 1

Have you noticed what happens **Slide 2** when you see a small child? We **Slide 3** smile at him, we talk to him, we make compliments **Slide 4** and sometimes **Slide 5** even grimaces!

**Slide 6** Dad, **Slide 7** Mom, **Slide 8** Grandpa, **Slide 9** Granny, **Slide 10** brothers and sisters, the whole family goes out of their way to make him feel good, this little one.

We prepare **Slide 11** him good food suitable for his age. **Slide 12** And the giggles? You know the laughs during hide-and-seek games? It's fantastic!

Ah! These little ones! They take up a lot of space in the house and especially in our hearts. Why all this? But, because of course **Slide 13** we love them and **Slide 14** want them to be happy.

**Slide 15** And God, how does he see these tiny little children? Does he care about them; he has so much to do with the adults?

This is what we are going to see now as we listen to an episode **Slide 16** of the Gospel of Mark; you will find it in chapter 10.

At the end of the story, you can answer my question: **Slide 17** For what reason was Jesus angry?

### **Slide 18** FOR WHAT REASON WAS JESUS ANGRY?

**Slide 19** - Look! Look over there, but it's Jesus!

**Slide 20** - Yes, it's him! Let's go and see Him; **Slide 21** we will bring the children for Him to bless them!

**Slide 22** Joyful at the thought of seeing and talking to Jesus, the children walk quickly.

**Slide 23** - Oh Mom, we run ahead! We will arrive first!

**Slide 24** The Moms follow carrying the little ones in their arms.

**Slide 25** Jesus has just finished talking to a group of men who are just leaving.

**Slide 26** - Really, we're arriving at the right time, say the mothers. He is alone with his disciples. We will be able to draw near to him!

They hasten the pace; **Slide 27** the children are nearly there but the disciples intervene.

**Slide 28** - What are you doing here? Can't you see that you are going to disturb the Master!

**Slide 29** They frown and even take on a stern expression.

- We are talking between grown-ups, **Slide 30** you have nothing to do here. Go and play!

**Slide 31** We don't want kids here!

**Slide 32** Turning to the mothers, they reproach them:

**Slide 33** - Why are you bringing all these children to Jesus? They have nothing to do here, this is no place for children. **Slide 34** You should leave them at home! They will disturb the grown-ups, they are too young. Take them home! **Slide 35** Come on, go back home! When they are older, they will be able to come back to see Jesus!

The smiling mothers' faces darken.

**Slide 36** - Oh! How disappointed we are! They say to themselves. We had hoped so much that Jesus would rest his hands on them.

The frightened children hide in their dresses and the little ones are scared too and sniff, ready to cry.

The Moms are about to leave. **Slide 37** But, Jesus, who has seen and heard everything, comes forward. He looks very, very angry.

He looks at his disciples and says to them:

**Slide 38** - But what are you doing here? Why are you sending them back?

**Slide 39** Let them come to me and do not try to stop them because **Slide 40** the Kingdom of God belongs to little children and to all who are like them. Yes, I do assure you: he who does not receive the Kingdom of God with the simplicity of heart and the trust of a little child will never enter it. **Slide 41** The disciples do not know what to say, they bow their heads, sheepishly. They realize they made a huge mistake, because they never thought that Jesus could care about children and that He had come for them as well. **Slide 42** Jesus' face softens and He says to mothers and children:

**Slide 43** - Come! Get closer!

Reassured, the children run to Jesus and **Slide 44** gather around Him. They are all happy because they see him close and can touch Him. They have understood that Jesus does not reject them.

The Moms approach with their babies. Jesus walks up to them and takes in turns each little child in his arms. **Slide 45** He lays his hands on them and He blesses them.

The disciples look in astonishment; they have just learned a great lesson: that Jesus also **Slide 46** welcomes and blesses little children.

**Slide 47 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Do you remember the question? **Slide 48** What was the reason why Jesus got angry?

**Slide 49** Because the disciples sent away the mothers and their children; they didn't want them to come near to Him. They still did not understand how much Jesus loves children.

Me, I say: **Slide 50** "Well done moms! You were right to come and too bad for those who weren't happy! "

But **Slide 51** why do you think they came? Eh yes! Quite simply, because they believed that

**Slide 52** Jesus loves their children, even the little ones, and that He was going to do them good.

**Slide 53** And you, do you believe that he loves you and that He wants to bless you? That he loves your little brothers and sisters, if you have got any? I encourage you **Slide 54** to approach Him in prayer, to ask Him to bless you. Even if you are very young, He will bless you.

**Slide 55 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

The incident reported in this passage clearly shows that the gospel **Slide 56** is good news for children even for those who are very young. So many truths escape them, the main thing is that they understand that Jesus loves them. Our role as parent is to **Slide 57** "bring them to Jesus" while taking care not to erect barriers between Him and them, for example by using too complicated language, by excessive rigor, excessive demands that will put them off, or negative words.

We often remember verse 14 of the Gospel of Mark chapter 10:

**Slide 58** "Suffer little children to come to me, and do not prevent them;

**Slide 59** Because the kingdom of God is for those who are like them".

Jesus has a special love for children and He wants to take charge of their lives.

Finally, I send you this little word of encouragement from a pastor to his audience:

**Slide 60** "give the best of yourselves to the children".

**Slide 61**