

“Needed Nurturing”

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him **touch them**, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little **children come to me**, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children **in his arms, put his hands on them** and **blessed them**. - **Mark 10:13-16 NIV**

UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES

1. Loving _____.

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him **touch them**. - **Mark 10:13 NIV**

And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who **touched him** were **healed**. - **Mark 6:56 NIV**

2. Abundant _____.

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him **touch them**, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little **children come to me**, and do not hinder them.” - **Mark 10:13-14 NIV**

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you **do not even know what will happen tomorrow**. What is your life? You are a **mist** that appears for a little while and then vanishes. - **James 4:13-14 NIV**

3. Encouraging _____.

And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and **blessed them**. - **Mark 10:16 NIV**

And a voice from heaven said, “This is **my Son**, whom **I love**; with him **I am well pleased**.” - **Matthew 3:17 NIV**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- How were you raised? Did your parents excel in spending time with you, loving touch, or encouraging talk?
- Think about your relationships. If you are a parent, define where you can improve: Time? Talk? Touch? If you do not have children, answer regarding other important relationships.
- Think about Jesus’ ministry and how he took time to stop and bless the children. Discuss how you would feel if you were one of his disciples.
- God spoke audibly, announcing how pleased he was with Jesus. How would you react if God audibly spoke to you? After you answer that, now consider how God has spoken to you in his Word. What verses of Scripture have you read this past week where God spoke to you?
- Read James 4:13-14 above. How does that passage give you a sense of urgency?
- What one thing can you do differently this week to improve on any one of these areas?