

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN



No one is closer to God than a child.

KEY VERSE

“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

Mark 10:14

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Preaching in the “region of Judea and beyond the Jordan” (Mk 10:1).
- Upset when his disciples are unwelcoming to the people who bring him their children.
- Says people have to be childlike if they want to understand the kingdom (Mk 10:15).
- Doesn’t exclude anyone from hearing the word.



Disciples

- May want to protect Jesus from the constant pressure and distraction of the crowds.
- Jesus recently told them to welcome “a little child,” but they have already forgotten his instructions (Mk 9:36-37).



Children

- The lowest members of society. Greco-Roman slaves were called “children” for their entire lives.
- Jesus points to them to show that God’s kingdom doesn’t honor people who hold earthly power.

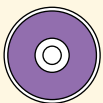


Blessing

- People bring Jesus their children, so he can touch them.
- Touch was thought to have the power of blessing or healing—as in the story of the bleeding woman (Mk 5:24-34).



Supplies:



Holy Moly DVD



Holy Moly Leaflets



Holy Moly Bible Storybooks



Scissors



Dice

(10–15 min.)

DISCOVER

Get Ready

Stand in a circle with one kid in the middle who does a silly action until everyone shouts, “That’s so funny!” The next volunteer goes in the middle of the circle and does a new silly action to keep the circle shouting, “That’s so funny!” over and over until all are laughing.

Ask kids these questions.

- Would you rather laugh or cry?
- Who do you think laughs more—kids or grown-ups?
- What else do you think grown-ups can learn from kids?

Introduce the Characters

- See how Jesus teaches others with words and actions.
- Grown-ups who are listening to Jesus try to get him to notice them.
- Children arrive and show what real love is.



Play the Jesus and the Children Video



Watch how the children get close to Jesus. Hint: it might be how you get close to someone you love.

If time permits, watch it again!

(5–10 min.)

RELATE

Talk about the Jesus and the Children Video

- Who seemed to be protecting Jesus from the crowds?
- I wonder if you ever feel like grown-ups don’t want you to see something important.
- What were the grown-ups doing before the kids arrived?
- What did the people do when the kids ran through to Jesus?
- What did Jesus do with the kids, and why do you think he did it?



(5–10 min.)

CONNECT

Open the Holy Moly Bible Storybook

Read On Tippy Toes on pages 27-30.

Find the kids in each picture.

- When have you stood on your tippy toes to see something?
- Read the questions about Jesus on page 28. What questions do you have about Jesus?
- What do you think the grown-ups thought when Jesus said, “The last will be first”?

Jesus blessed children by laying his hands on them.

- How do you think it felt to be touched by Jesus?
- When are you blessed? At home? Other places? What other ways can we be blessed?
- How could you share a blessing with someone else?



(20-30 min.)

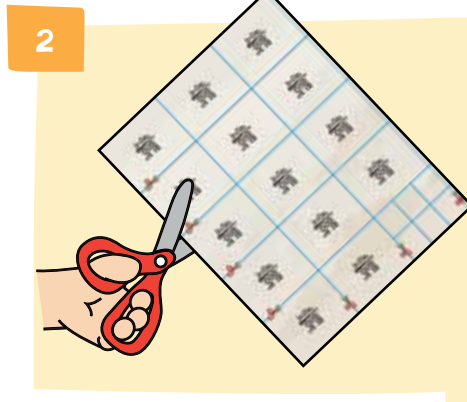
CREATE



FUNNY KIDS GAME: Kids make and play a board game using funny actions to get everyone closer to Jesus.



Cut the leaflet in half.



Cut apart game cards.

Holy Moly!

Give kids time to imagine and help them reflect.

- We get to play a board game! How can you show love while you play a board game?
- What kind of games do you play at home?
- What games do you think kids played during Bible times?



Choose one of the markers, and cut it out.



Roll a die and move your marker on the game board.

Holy Moly!

Give each kid some special attention!

- How can playing games together make us feel closer to each other?
- What makes you feel close to God?
- One way kids are different from grown-ups is that kids play more. What do you think Jesus meant when he said to be more like children?
- Do you think that everyone should play? Why or why not?



ACTIVITY TIPS

Fewer kids?

Invite other family members to join the class and play the game.

Less time?

Play the game with a pair of dice so kids move around the board more quickly.

More kids?

Make up additional goofy actions, write them on cards, and add to the pile.

More time?

Line up a few game boards to make a jumbo board. Everyone plays on the same board.

CLOSING PRAYER

Clap on each beat. Have kids echo each line.

Dear God.

**Thanks for this day
When we can play.
We all love you.
And Jesus, too!**

Amen!

