



Sermon Series: Mark: Living Everyday With Jesus

Sermon Title: Children: Never a Nuisance!

Date: 2/22/2026

Mark 10:13-16

Big Idea: Learn from children; they model the trust necessary for salvation.

In Jesus' day - and even today - some see children as a burden. Mark 10:13-16 shows Jesus' response when his disciples tried to keep children away. The disciples rebuked those bringing children, but Jesus was indignant: **"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14)**. Then he took them in his arms and blessed them.

4 attitudes:

1. Play Keep Away

People were excited about Jesus. Parents brought their young children (infants, toddlers, little ones under four) so Jesus could touch and bless them. But the disciples turned them away. Why?

Culturally, children were often seen as a nuisance. Roman families sometimes discarded babies they couldn't support. Children were valued as future workers, but not important right now. In terms of status, with high child mortality rates, the disciples may not have seen them as strategic partners. Practically, children were a distraction - anyone who's tried to have a serious conversation while a preschooler grabs their leg understands.

We might not say it out loud, but sometimes we treat children like an interruption to "real" worship or something to survive rather than souls to celebrate. When we think like this, we're playing spiritual keep-away. To raise families who follow Jesus, children need to be cherished, not kept away.

2. Do Not Hinder Them!

When Jesus saw the disciples rebuke those bringing children, he was indignant - inflamed with anger over injustice. This wasn't mild irritation; Jesus was moved with righteous anger because these little ones were being blocked from him.

How does God view children? He sees them as his blessing. At conception, God has already said yes to this life. Children bear his image. Scripture affirms: "Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father" (Matthew 18:10).

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. (Proverbs 17:6)

Jesus "took them in his arms and blessed them" (Mark 10:16) - not at arm's length, but close.

How can children be hindered in faith? Through lack of example when they don't see authentic, joyful faith in adults. Through lack of priority when everything else comes before discipleship. Through lack of worship experience when children never see adults singing, praying, or opening Scripture.

Behind this is spiritual battle. Satan wants to fill children's minds with lies that they're not loved, not valuable, and God is not good. Jesus stands in that battlefield and says, "Do not hinder them."

3. Follow a Child's Example

Jesus takes this further - it's not just about children, it's how we approach God. "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" (Mark 10:15). Adults must become like children - full of wonder, trust, and belief. They don't need complete understanding before jumping on board.

Adults have lived long enough to be hurt. Because of painful experiences, we're slow to trust and guarded. But with childlike faith, it's enough to know God loves us and provides forgiveness.

With childlike faith, it's enough to know: God loves me. I'm a sinner who needs forgiveness. Jesus died for my sins and rose again. If I come to him, he will receive me. He wants to be with me forever. A small child can respond at heart level - so can you.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. In what ways might we unintentionally "hinder" children from coming to Jesus today, either in our homes, churches, or communities?**
- 2. Jesus was indignant when the disciples turned children away. What does his strong reaction teach us about how God values children and their place in his kingdom?**
- 3. What qualities of childlike faith (trust, wonder, simple belief) do you find most challenging to maintain as an adult? Why do you think that is?**
- 4. How can we practically create environments - in our families and church - where children see authentic faith modeled and are invited to participate in worship and discipleship?**
- 5. Jesus said we must "receive the kingdom of God like a child" to enter it (Mark 10:15). What does it look like for you personally to receive God's kingdom with childlike faith rather than adult self-reliance?**