

**Program:** SS Panel 2024 3 Q

**Quarterly title:** The Book of Mark

**Quarterly author:** Thomas R. Shepherd

**Lesson Title:** #8 Teaching Disciples Part 1

**Section title:** Monday - Jesus and Children

**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

J Dinzey 2024 Q3 L8 Jesus and Children

## Teaching Disciples: Part 2

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Mark 10; Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:24; Gal. 4:1, 2; Rom. 6:1–11; Isa. 11:1–16.*

**Memory Text:** " 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many' " (*Mark 10:45, NKJV*).

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**MONDAY**

*August 19*

### Jesus and Children

**Read Mark 10:13–16. What did Jesus do for those who brought children to Him?**

**Mark 10:13–16** 13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*.

14 But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

Among the Jews it was customary for children to be brought to some rabbi, that he might lay his hands upon them in blessing; but the Saviour's disciples thought His work too important to be interrupted in this way. When the mothers came to Him with their little ones, the disciples looked on them with disfavor. They thought these children too young to be benefited by a visit to Jesus, and concluded that He would be displeased at their presence. But it was the disciples with whom He was displeased. The Saviour understood the care and burden of the mothers who were seeking to train their children according to the word of God. He had heard their prayers. He Himself had drawn them into His presence. DA 511.2

**Mark 10:15** Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

16 And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them.

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

How appropriate it was that these children should be brought to Christ for his intercession and blessing! **They were types of what the members of his church should become.** The children of God are to possess the humility, the loving trust, the teachable spirit, the innocence, uncorrupted by worldly deception, that were possessed by the little children. ST April 9, 1896, par. 5

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

“Let not your un-Christlike character misrepresent Jesus. Do not keep the little ones away from Him by your coldness and harshness. **Never give them cause to feel that heaven would not be a pleasant place to them if you were there.** Do not speak of religion as something that children cannot understand, or act as if they were not expected to accept Christ in their childhood. Do not give them

the false impression that the religion of Christ is a religion of gloom, and that in coming to the Saviour they must give up all that makes life joyful.”—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 43, 44.

>>> children here discouraging things - “ it’s hard being a Christian

>>>

### **Children need to hear**

>> Isa 48:22 There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

**Pro 13:15** Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

>>> the sad deacon

Let you light so shine before men (children)

>>> now more than ever children need to see men being men and women beat women in Christ Jesus. The present age is an age when corruption is at an all-time high. Children need to see an example of what is to follow Jesus with all of our hearts. **They need to see that being a christian is a good thing**, there is a happy experience to trust in Jesus. They need to see men and women pointing to Jesus for in this wicked world we live in unless they see you and I let our light so shine before God that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven they will be led astray.

While children were greatly desired in the ancient world (particularly boys in the male-dominant culture), birth and childhood were not easy. Without modern medical care, the risks to mothers in giving birth and to newborns, infants, and children were elevated. Many cultures had traditional medicines and amulets used to protect these vulnerable individuals against malevolent forces.

While children were desired, they were of low social status, along the lines of slaves, actually (*Gal. 4:1, 2*). In the Greco-Roman world, those who were deformed or undesirable would be exposed, or even tossed in a river. Boys were valued over girls; sometimes girl babies were left to die among the elements.

At times these abandoned babies were “rescued,” only to be raised and sold as slaves.

The disciples appear not to have understood Jesus’ teaching in Mark 9 about receiving the kingdom of God like a child (*Mark 9:33–37*). Now they rebuke those who brought children to Jesus’ for blessing, perhaps thinking that He would not have time for such a simple task.

They were wrong. Jesus is indignant. Throughout Mark, Jesus has some striking reactions to people, and it is instructive that one of His strong reactions was toward people who were keeping children away from Him.

He strongly insists that the disciples must not stand in the way of the children. Why? Because the kingdom of God belongs to them, and one must receive it in the attitude and outlook of a child—probably a reference to simple, implicit trust in God.

“Let not your un-Christlike character misrepresent Jesus. Do not keep the little ones away from Him by your coldness and harshness. **Never give them cause to feel that heaven would not be a pleasant place to them if you were there.** Do not speak of religion as something that children cannot understand, or act as if they were not expected to accept Christ in their childhood. Do not give them the false impression that the religion of Christ is a religion of gloom, and that in coming to the Saviour they must give up all that makes life joyful.”—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 43, 44.

**How can you better reveal Jesus to whatever children are around you?**



**Additional notes:**

Jesus was ever a lover of children. He accepted their childish sympathy and their open, unaffected love. The grateful praise from their pure lips was music in His ears, and refreshed His spirit when oppressed by contact with crafty and hypocritical men. Wherever the Saviour went, the benignity of His countenance, and His gentle, kindly manner won the love and confidence of children. DA 511.1

Jesus knows the burden of every mother's heart. He who had a mother that struggled with poverty and privation sympathizes with every mother in her labors. He who made a long journey in order to relieve the anxious heart of a Canaanite woman will do as much for the mothers of today. He who gave back to the widow of Nain her only son, and who in His agony upon the cross remembered His own mother, is touched today by the mother's sorrow. In every grief and every need He will give comfort and help. DA 512.2

Let mothers come to Jesus with their perplexities. They will find grace sufficient to aid them in the management of their children. The gates are open for every mother who would lay her burdens at the Saviour's feet. **He who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not," still invites the mothers to lead up their little ones to be blessed by Him. Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of the praying mother.** John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. If we will live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mold our little ones, even from their earliest moments. DA 512.3