Jesus and the Children

Previous items needed: Lenten Puzzle, Jesus, purple underlay, & Jerusalem backdrop ("Get Ready to Worship Card")

Come close to this story of Jesus. The season of Lent is the time when we prepare for Easter. Purple is the color of Lent.

Place purple underlay on the floor.
Place background of Jerusalem in the box lid and set at the left end of the purple underlay up against box.

Jesus, God’s special son, spent a lot of time traveling, sharing, showing, and loving others.

Unroll the road from left to right on the purple underlay going towards Jerusalem.

Jesus was living the gospel - The “Good News” of God. Jesus was like a candle that brought light to those who felt sad.

Place Jesus on the road to the right (far from Jerusalem).

Lots of people followed him on these roads to different places.

Move Jesus down the road and place the two disciples beside him.

Families would come and listen to him speak. They liked to be near him.

Hand out the children and place them in a semi-circle around Jesus.

I wonder if you have ever been somewhere, like the zoo or a movie, where you wanted to see what was happening?

Place the Disciples between Jesus and the children.

One time, there were people who told the children that they would bother Jesus and they needed to get out of the way. The children could not see Jesus.

But Jesus can see us – even when we feel that there are things, like people, in the way.

Move the disciples back beside Jesus—not blocking the children.

Jesus moved those blocking the children and welcomed them close to him. He even honored these children, like you, making them feel extra important.

Move each child to Jesus.
Have Jesus give a hug and bless each child.
Cup your hand over the child in a blessing motion.

Jesus told all that these children were the most special part of God’s kingdom. Everyone should be like children if they wanted to be close to Jesus.

Sit in silence for a moment.
Wondering with God’s Story

I wonder...
what it feels like to not see Jesus?
how it feels to be close to Jesus?
why children are extra special?
how adults can be like children?

Working with God’s Story

1) Have each person retell the story without reading the words. *Just use items.*

2) Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.

3) Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bedtime?

Check the “Weekly Faith FITness Plan” card.

Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe
Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.org

Jesus and the Children

Mark 10:13-16
(Common English Version)

People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.” Then he hugged the children and blessed them.
**Puzzle Piece**

Take this piece of the puzzle and color and cut it out. Glue, tape or staple it to the matching piece from the first week. Draw a picture of “each child of God” you live with next to Jesus.

**Family Prayer**

There are so many ways to pray. This week’s prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that shares a place or a time when you felt close to Jesus.

I/We was/were feeling close to Jesus when

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

_________ Thank you for keeping me/us close Amen.

**Tech /Text Time—Young People Can!**

Are children, youth, & young adults really welcomed in your church, worship, mission work, and faith learning times? Are you allowing yourself to be “like a child” and willing to engage with Jesus in these activities?

Sometimes our faith communities forget just how much even the youngest child can contribute to our world.

Here are some inspiring videos to remind all of us how to live out being “children of God.”

*Kids with Character: Generosity, Great Schools*

https://youtu.be/poiJv43MQZA

20 Things People Should Say More Often, SoulPancake

https://youtu.be/m5yCOSHeYn4

Other Blogs/Stories:

https://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/kids--families