

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, **we want YOU to be the one to introduce** this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



3.2



Jesus Loves Me

Part of The Big God Story
Matthew 19:13-15
Children Welcomed

JUST FOR FUN

One night this week after dinner, gather your family together and read **Matthew 18:1-5** and **19:13-15**. Ask your children why they think Jesus would tell people they needed to be like little children. In what ways? Then ask why they think the disciples didn't want the children to follow Jesus. Discuss Jesus' response. Remind your children that what they just heard was from The Big God Story. They'll learn more in church this week about how much Jesus loves them.

Did You Know?

- Vulnerability and dependency were not qualities to admire in the Israel of the first century. In Matthew 18, Jesus praises children for their utmost humility, using them as the ideal example of the citizens of His kingdom.
- To the Israelites, blessings weren't merely prayers. They were highly spiritual moments where an elder, father, or spiritual leader would lay hands on and speak prophetic words of truth over the life of an individual.
- Despite their lowly position in society, blessing children was highly valued. Receiving a blessing was often one of the most sought-after and memorable moments of a child's life.
- Jesus loves the heart of a child. Children's dependent nature is a good and beneficial quality, showing how we are to interact with God: as a Father.

Remember Verse

As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love.
John 15:9

Children this age are rapidly strengthening their language skills. You can aid this process by using complete sentences and "grown-up" words, rather than simplifying words or phrases.

Teachable Moments

After reading **Matthew 18:1-5** and **19:13-15**, discuss the following together:

- Who did Jesus say was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
- What do you think it would be like to have Jesus put His hands on you and pray for you?
- What do these verses tell us about Jesus?

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.