

# JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

BABIES  
**UNIT 2**  
SESSION 3

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

### CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

*(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story statements in the leader guide.)*

Have you ever considered the range of emotions Jesus experienced? For example, what made Him angry? Scripture rarely references Jesus' anger. Today's passage stands out as the only place in the Bible where Jesus is depicted as "indignant." In the original Greek, *aganaktēsis*, implies extreme emotion from righteous indignation. So what aroused such anger? The disciples' attitude toward children.

Views on children in ancient Jewish society differed significantly from those in our modern society. Today, our culture sees tenderness and compassion toward children as a virtuous quality. In contrast, in ancient Jewish society, adults viewed children as insignificant and unworthy of attention. So when people continually brought children to Jesus, His disciples attempted to stop the interruptions, reflecting the societal norms of the time.

Jesus, on the other hand, valued these children for a couple of reasons. First, Jesus' interaction with the children reveals His compassionate heart. He was a champion of the helpless, vulnerable, and powerless. People in His society devalued children because they had little to contribute to society or a movement. Jesus, however, valued them for who they were as image bearers of God.

Secondly, Jesus valued these children because they illustrate the requirements for entering the Kingdom of God. Jesus explained to the disciples, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." The children's utter dependence on Him and their openhearted eagerness to love and be near Him exemplify the attitude of those who are truly Christ's followers.

Ask God to guide you in trusting and loving Him as the children do.

## TEACHER TIP

Touch is one way that babies gain information about their surroundings. Touch is one of the highest developed senses at birth. It's important to give a baby the opportunity to touch items and discover her world. Allow babies to touch the pages of the Bible and discover the most special book in their world—the Bible.



### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus loves me.

### LIFE POINT

Jesus loves me.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Mark 10:13-16

### BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "Let the children come."

Mark 10:14

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of items identified as *CD* are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. Items identified as *DVD* are available in the Digital Video Bundle.

Additional training for Bible Studies For Life: Kids is available at [ministrygrid.com/biblestudiesforlife](http://ministrygrid.com/biblestudiesforlife).