

LIVE BIG.

October's B.I.G. Idea

We believe Jesus is the Messiah, the special one sent by God.

October's Bible Verse

You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Matthew 16:16

October's B.I.G. Theme

Jesus is the Messiah.

Lesson 7 ★ Jesus and the Children

Today's Bible Story

Mark 10:13-16

Objectives

- ★ Children will hear and explore the story of Jesus welcoming and blessing children.
- ★ Children will recognize that they are important to Jesus.
- ★ Children will discover that Jesus wants to have a friendship with them.

"When Jesus Christ asked little children to come to him, he didn't say only rich children, or white children, or children with two-parent families, or children who didn't have a mental or physical handicap. He said, 'Let all children come unto me.'"

—Marian Wright Edelman

"Don't bother Grandpa; he's reading the paper."
"Let Aunt Sara rest; she's tired."

We often say such words to children when we feel that they are bothering others. We make statements like these because we want to teach children to respect others and their personal belongings. And indeed teaching children to respect the privacy of others is vital for a child's well-being and the well-being of others. Setting boundaries for children is good parenting and caretaking.

In today's lesson the disciples may have felt that they were setting healthy limitations and respecting Jesus by stopping the parents from bringing their children to Jesus. We don't believe that they were being mean to the parents, nor did they dislike children. They knew Jesus was tired and busy, so they felt that he should not be bothered. Boy were they wrong!

Jesus' response, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them" (Mark 10:14), tells us a great deal about Jesus' character. Jesus is saying that he's never too busy for you.

When it comes to being accessible to others—whether at work, church, or anywhere else—for our own well-being we must set limitations. But Jesus is always accessible. The only limits are the ones we place on Jesus.

Today's lesson is one of many stories in the Gospels where there is evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the one anointed by God for a special purpose according to God's plan. First, the people believe that Jesus is special, since they are bringing their children to him. Next, Jesus proclaims and teaches about the kingdom of God with authority. And finally Jesus touches and blesses the children.

During the lesson, you will be providing opportunities for the children in your class to feel that Jesus loves them and believes they are important. You are letting them know that Jesus is accessible all the time. Just like the parents in the story, you too are bringing children to Jesus. You are introducing them to the character of Jesus—who Jesus is and how he cares for them.

Think about your own life. How has Jesus been available to you? How has Jesus used family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers to make you feel welcome and accepted? Can you think of a few specific examples? You may wish to share a personal story with your class.

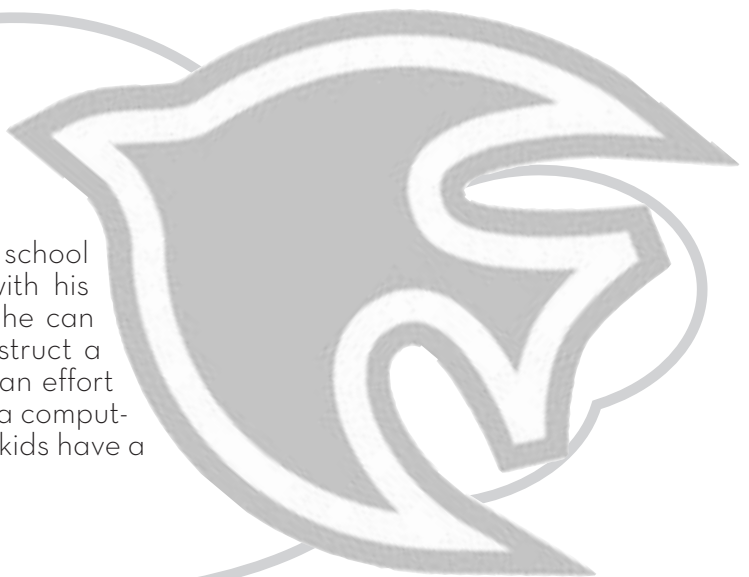
Now go and welcome the children. Bring them to Jesus and let him touch their lives and bless them.

Activity	Supplies
Invite them in... (15 minutes)	<i>Resources appear in bold</i>
Attendance	Stickers , Attendance Chart
For Adults Only	hot snack, napkins, streamers, paper, marker
Early Arrivals	Bibles, Leader—pages 11, 12 ; markers, poster paper
Graffiti Wall	white mural paper, markers, paint, brushes, fingerpaints
Words that Hurt/ Heal	two different colors of posterboard, magazines, scissors, gluestick
Life at the Station	DVD, Kids' Book—pages 3, 4 ; DVD player, television, pencils
...Into the Bible (30 minutes)	
Bible Study	Bibles, Kid's Book—page 2 , pencils, bookmarks
Bible Story	Kids' Book—page 1 , simple drama costumes (optional), Words That Hurt/Words That Heal posters from arrival activity
You are the Messiah	Bibles, Leader—pages 11, 12 ; pencils, bookmarks
B.I.G. Sounds	DVD , DVD player, television
...Into Life (15 minutes)	
Welcome in Worship Bags	see page 8
Everyone Welcome Mats	see page 9
iLiveBig Journal Time	Kids' Book—pages 3, 4 ; pens, pencils, markers, pillows
Giving the Blessing	Leader—page 13 , lip balm in a small jar, colored tape

DVD Summary:

Kids are People, Too

Sperry is embarrassed by her teacher at school because he won't allow Sperry to help him with his computer problem—even though Sperry knows she can fix it. Meanwhile, some of the guys playfully construct a tower as the episode's action climaxes. Then, in an effort to reaffirm Sperry, Anna asks her to help with a computer problem while acknowledging that kids have a lot to teach adults.



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Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Attendance

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart

*Have children place
the sticker with today's date
on the attendance chart.*

Live B.i.G. Jesus welcomes the children. So do we!

For Adults Only

Supplies: hot snack, napkins, streamers, paper, marker

*Try not to respond as
the children protest. They
will be able to eat the snack
after the Bible Study.*

Prepare

- ★ Prepare an aromatic snack such as hot cinnamon rolls, cup cakes, or fresh chocolate chip cookies.
- ★ Place the snack and napkins on the table.
- ★ Place a large note on the table that reads, "This snack is for adults only."
- ★ Use streamers to rope off the area where the snack will be served.

Live B.i.G. Jesus welcomes all ages. There are no barriers to Jesus the Messiah.

Early Arrivals

Supplies: Bibles, Leader—pages 11, 12; markers, poster paper

Prepare

- ★ Make copies of the Bible Verse Word Search (**Leader—page 11**) and the Messiah page (**Leader—page 12**). If possible, make this a two-sided handout.

- Do**
- ★ Invite a child to locate and bookmark the Bible story in the **Bible**.
 - ★ Invite a child (or a pair) to make a poster with the Bible verse on it. When they are finished, display it in the room or in the church.
 - ★ Invite a child (or a pair) to learn the sign language for the Bible verse in order to demonstrate it to the entire class later.
 - ★ Have children do the Bible Verse Word Search activity.
 - ★ Have children read the Messiah handout. You may wish to ask for volunteers to prepare to read parts of this handout aloud later for the class.

Live B.i.G. There are many ways to help children feel special and welcome.

Invite them in

Graffiti Wall

Supplies: white mural paper, markers, paint, brushes, fingerpaints

Prepare

- ★ Cover an entire wall with white mural paper (this could be in your classroom or a hallway). Use two layers of paper to prevent the colors from bleeding through the paper.
- ★ Write: Who are people in our world today that get pushed aside by others?

Do ★ Invite children to use markers, paint and brushes, or finger paints to create their graffiti responses to the question with words or pictures on the mural paper covering the wall.

Live B.i.G. Jesus welcomes everyone. Do we?

Words That Hurt/Words That Heal

Supplies: two different colors of posterboard, magazines, scissors, gluestick

Prepare

- ★ Place the two pieces of posterboard on a table.
- ★ On top of one write: Words That Hurt. On top of the other write: Words That Heal.

Do ★ Invite children to look through magazines and cut out words that hurt or heal.
★ Have children glue the words onto the two posters.

Live B.i.G. Exploring the many words that hurt and heal will help the children recognize when their remarks might hurt others.

Life at The Station

Supplies: DVD, Kids' Book—pages 3, 4; DVD player, television, pencils

- Do** ★ Distribute the iLiveBig Journal page (**Kids' Book—pages 3, 4**).
- ★ **Ask:** Can you remember a time when you have been told you were too young to do something? Describe it in words or by drawing a picture on page 4. Be sure to include how you felt at the time. (Allow 3 minutes.)
 - ★ Play the **DVD**.
 - ★ **Ask:** How does it feel to be excluded from the snack today just because you aren't an adult? What would happen to you if you approached the table and took the snack? Today in our Bible story there are children who are scolded for approaching Jesus. Let's see what happens.

Live B.i.G. Our friends at The Station model ways to live as Christians and help to reinforce our lesson.

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Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Into the Bible

Bible Study

Supplies: Bibles, Kids' Book—page 2, pencils, bookmarks

- Do** ★ Divide the class into pairs. Distribute the Bible Study page (**Kids' Book—page 2**).
- ★ Have the children look up Mark 10:13-16 in their **Bibles**. Read it together. If you are reading from the NRSV, be prepared to define 'indignant' (feeling and showing anger because you believe you are being treated unfairly).
 - ★ Encourage them to help one another as they work on their Bible Study page.
 - ★ When they finish, have them close their Bibles.
 - ★ **Ask:** Do you think you can imagine how the children in our story felt about being denied access to Jesus? What did Jesus tell the people about children? Why do you think the children were important to Jesus? Do you believe that you are important to Jesus?
 - ★ Remove the barrier around the snack and invite the children to enjoy the snack.

Live B.i.G. Children are often told they are too young. But God invites everyone to receive the gift of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Bible Story

Supplies: Kids' Book—pages 1, 3; simple drama costumes (optional), Words That Hurt/Words That Heal posters from arrival activity

- Do** ★ Read the Bible story (**Kids' Book—page 1**) together as a class.
- ★ To act out the story, assign the parts of Jesus, parent, child, disciples, and crowd.
 - ★ Provide simple costumes to use, and invite the children to roleplay the story.
 - ★ Have the children sit on the floor when they are finished.
 - ★ **Ask:** What was it like to be the parent? The child? The disciples? The crowd? Jesus?
 - ★ Have the children look at the Words That Hurt/Words That Heal posters they created during arrival time.
 - ★ **Say:** Look at the posters. What are some of the words on the posters that the disciples might have used when they scolded the parents and children? What are some of the words Jesus might have used that day when he was angry with the disciples? What are some of the words he might have used when he was welcoming and blessing the children?

- ★ Have the children write a note to Sperry telling her what they have learned about how Jesus welcomes the children. (Allow 3 minutes.)

Live B.i.G. Entering into the story through roleplay helps children to experience the different parts of the story. As Christians, we believe this story in the Bible teaches us that Jesus is the Messiah.

You are the Messiah

Supplies: Bibles, Leader—pages 11, 12; pencils, bookmarks

Do ★ Using the handouts distributed at the beginning of the class, read the Messiah page together, or have volunteers read sections.

- ★ Turn the page over and encourage the children to find Matthew 16:16 in their **Bibles**.

★ **Ask:** Who says these words in the Bible? (Simon Peter) Who is Simon Peter? (Disciple) What is the question Jesus asks Simon Peter before Peter says these words? (“But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15))

- ★ If a child has previously learned the sign language to the Bible verse, invite him or her to stand and sign it as the class repeats the verse (**Leader—page 12**).

★ Repeat the entire verse a few times with all the children doing the sign language.

- ★ **Say:** Peter isn’t the only one who believes Jesus is the Messiah. Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah. Let’s put on our detective hats. What evidence in our Bible story today proves that Jesus is the Messiah? (The people believe that Jesus is special since they are bringing their children to him; Jesus proclaims and teaches about the kingdom of God with authority; Jesus touches and blesses the children.)

Live B.i.G. Children will learn that Jesus proclaimed himself to be the Messiah and that Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah.

B.i.G. Sounds

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

Do ★ Watch the **DVD**, and have the children sing along with “He’s the Messiah.”

Live B.i.G. Music can reach children in a special way, inviting them to open their hearts to Jesus.

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The B.i.G. Idea

We believe Jesus is the Messiah,
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Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Welcome in Worship Bags

Supplies: Leader—page 13, 8 1/2-by-11 sheets of paper, zipper sandwich bags, crayons, felt scraps, chenille stems, 6-inch squares of felt, paper, staplers, permanent markers, markers, scissors, staples, clear adhesive paper, three baskets

Prepare

- ★ Determine how many bags the children will be making.
- ★ Copy the note (**Leader—page 13**) to go into each bag.
- ★ Cut the 8 1/2-by-11 sheets of paper in half to make two pieces of 5 1/2-by-8 sheets of paper.
- ★ Set up three stations: Felt Art Bags, Coloring Art Bags, Chenille Art Bags.
- ★ At each station have zipper sandwich bags, copies of the note, scissors, markers, clear adhesive paper, and a basket to hold the finished bags.
- ★ At the Felt Art Station: felt scraps, 6-inch squares of felt
- ★ At the Coloring Art Station: colors, paper, stapler, extra staples
- ★ At the Chenille Art Station: chenille stems

Communicate with the pastor and other leaders in the church as to whether the Welcome in Worship bags would be appreciated. Another possible use is to share these bags with young children during a church-wide event in the fall or at Christmastime.



- Do**
- ★ Divide the class into three groups, and assign each group to work at one of the three art stations.
 - ★ **Say:** One way for young children to feel welcome in worship is when they can create with their hands as they worship God. Today you are going to make special bags for young children to use during worship. First, decorate the welcome notes and sign your names with the markers. Next, cut the notes out and cover them with a piece of contact paper. (Demonstrate this by taking the back of the contact paper off and laying the contact paper on the table with the sticky side face-up. Place the welcome note face down on the contact paper. Fold the edges of the contact paper on the back of the note.) The card goes inside a bag. Place the rest of the items behind the colorful card.
 - ★ Felt Art Station: Have the children gather about ten small scrap pieces of felt. Place these pieces on the 6-inch square of felt, and place them inside the bag. Close the zipper and place the bag in the basket.
 - ★ Coloring Art Station: Have the children fold three pieces of paper over and staple the papers together like a book. Place the book behind the note in the zipper bag along with two to three crayons each. Close the zipper and place the bag in the basket.

Into Life

- ★ Chenille Art Station: Have children bundle chenille stems together in groups of four. Place these into the bag. Close the zipper and place the bag in the basket.
- ★ Place all of the bags together in large baskets to be put outside the worship space of the church.

Live B.i.G. Your children will actively participate in welcoming young children to worship.

Everyone Welcome Mats

Supplies: linoleum or vinyl flooring scraps about 14x24 inches (contact flooring stores to inquire about getting scraps they can't sell), latex paint, acrylic paints, paintbrushes, polyurethane sealer OR large sheets of construction paper, tempera paint, brushes, clear adhesive paper, scissors

Prepare

- ★ Plan to lay out these mats around the church on the following Sunday.
- ★ Cut mats into desired shape.
- ★ Paint the front and back of each mat with latex paint. Allow plenty of time to dry.

Do ★ **Ask:** How did Jesus welcome the children? What are some ways that we can welcome people in the church? (Listen to their ideas.) Those are good ideas. For now, let's make welcome mats to use next Sunday morning around the church. Our mats will remind everyone that they are welcome here at our church. As you decorate them, think of words and designs that would bring a smile to someone's face.

- ★ Have the children use the acrylic paints or tempera paint to decorate the mats with words and pictures of welcome.
- ★ After the paint dries, cover the linoleum or vinyl mats with polyurethane sealer (or the construction paper mats with clear adhesive paper).
- ★ For longer mat life, take the mats home and cover them with several coats of sealer. Allow them to dry between each coat before use.

Live B.i.G. When our children see their welcome mats at a church event, they will share what they have learned about Jesus welcoming the children. Children will feel valued when they see their decorated mats along the floor.

iLiveBig Journal Time

Supplies: Kids' Book—pages 3, 4; pens, pencils, markers, pillows

Do ★ Invite the children to grab a pillow and find their special spot to journal about the Bible story (**Kids' Book—page 4**) and to write a prayer to God (**Kids' Book—page 3**).

- ★ Have them place their journal page in their iLiveBig Journal folder (to be bound together at the end of the quarter).

Live B.i.G. It is important to provide the quiet space for children to reflect on what they have learned. The iLiveBig journals will be a memory book that they will bind themselves at the end of each quarter.

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Giving the Blessing

Supplies: Leader—page 13 (Sample Blessings), lip balm in a small jar, colored tape

Prepare

- ★ Cover a small jar of lip balm with colored tape to hide any packaging words.
- ★ Be prepared to speak a blessing to each child. (Either memorize it, or write it in an area on the wall where you will be able to read it.) You may speak the same blessing to each child or a different one for each child. Refer to the Reproducible for sample blessings **(Leader—page 13)**.

Do

- ★ Invite the class to sit in a circle. The leader should stand in the middle.
- ★ **Say:** When Jesus welcomed the children, he also blessed them. Saying a blessing to friends is a way of asking God to love, protect, and care for them. Today we will close our time together with a blessing.
- ★ Have one child come and stand before you. Use the lip balm to make a small cross shape on the forehead or hand of each child as you say a blessing.
- ★ Continue until all children have received a blessing.
- ★ After you have blessed the children, let them take turns blessing the adults and blessing one another. Encourage the children to think of their own words of blessing to say.
- ★ **Pray:** Almighty God, we thank you for anointing your Son, Jesus, to be the Christ, the Messiah. We thank you for loving us. We pray together in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Verse Word Search

Sign It!



Z B B E H Q C A C Q F M T Y Q G L D N R
M J D D Y J B W Q Y U T D I F O E H D S
M X Z J K C V V F D Q U K N V N M Y C R
Q S E I C J L B J J G N Y I Q Y E E L J
L Y Q Q N K P X D F F K C N H E G I X P
M L G R A Q Q V W O S L S Z O O R M G H
J Z M W F W N R E I O R I T X B D O X D
U D V N P H A J Z N K F N X G S G G Y W
H A J J N F I H X X B X P H O M W S A J
R Z R I C W O E J A R L A S Y E V M L S
W L R K F P X Z Z V W H T A H S I I B W
I O L Q Q F E Z K R P I U Q T S V D O V
B V X P H O T L Y K Z R R Z D I T C Z I
K U K I H N F B W W J D I X N A H S C F
Q U I F X N S O O U P B U G R H E I N Q
B T G Y C B G A S A I F O E C C V Z H C
B Z T B T M P G V I A D P M H P X D I X
R Y Z U N Z O D W E U H C N O T X Z Y J
J G S O W W Z A P W Q E D R G N O C A E
A U S Y Z M R I D D U Y O H E H C C V P

word bank ARE SON GOD THE
THE OF LIVING MESSIAH YOU

Write the words of the verse in the correct order:

_____.

Where can you find this Bible verse in the Bible?
_____ : _____

Messiah

Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Anointed One sent by God for a holy purpose: to die for our sins.

Messiah “Anointed One”

Anointed means the consecration of (setting apart) someone or something for a holy purpose.

In Hebrew*: Anointed = *Mashiah*

In Greek*: Anointed = *Christos*

Jesus the Messiah = Jesus Christ

*The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, and parts of the New Testament were originally written in Greek.

Jesus Says He Is Anointed

At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he went home to Nazareth. In the synagogue on the sabbath day, he stood up to read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

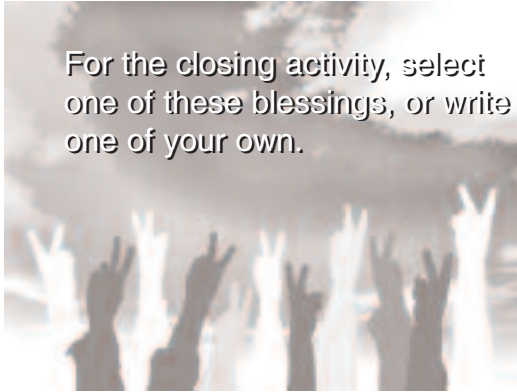
But Jesus wasn’t just reading words from the Scriptures, he was speaking about himself! When the people realized this, they drove him out of town. They even tried to throw him off the cliff, but he “passed through” them! (Based on Luke 4:28-30.)

Jesus Says He Is the Messiah

The high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power, and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’” ... All of them condemned him as deserving death. (Mark 14:61-62, 64)

This picture is an image of the *Statue of Christ the Redeemer* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Go to www.ilivebig.com to find out more.

Sample Blessings



For the closing activity, select one of these blessings, or write one of your own.

(Name), May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Taken from Galatians 6:18.

(Name) May the God of peace make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will.
Taken from Hebrews 13:20-21.

(Name), May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of God's hand.
Taken from an Irish blessing.

(Name), May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
Taken from Numbers 6:24-26.

(Name), May the Lord of peace give you peace at all times in all ways.
Taken from 2 Thessalonians 3:16.

Welcome in Worship Bags

Jesus Welcomes Children!

Parents,
We are so glad you are here today! A long time ago, parents brought children to Jesus so that he might touch them (see Mark 10:13-16). You are doing the same thing by bringing them to church today. We hope your child will enjoy our "Welcome in Worship" art bags. Which one did your child select?

Coloring Art - Color in the paper books.

Felt Art - Use the large piece of felt as a background for your very own work of art that you can change again and again.

Chenille Art - Create a masterpiece sculpture with the chenille sticks.

Have fun and know that you are always welcome here!