



Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me (above)

Our Lord Jesus Christ (right)

By James Tissot



One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these." Matthew 19:13-15

Did you know that Jesus likes, loves, and really enjoys being with children? Look at the painting on the left and consider these questions.

1. What is Jesus doing with these kids? What is he saying to them?
2. How do you think these kids feel about Jesus?
3. What do you think is so special about children? Do you think adults can learn from children? How?

Now, look at the painting of Jesus on the right. Imagine what it would be like to stand in front of Jesus and look directly into his eyes. Consider the following questions.

1. What do you see?
2. How would you describe the expression on Jesus' face? What is he feeling? What might he be thinking?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus has his hands placed over his heart?
4. Say these words, out loud if you can, "**Jesus looked at me and loved me.**" How does that make you feel?

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Directions for the adult leading this experience:

1. *Print off a copy for each person participating in this experience.*
2. *Find a good spot to spend a few moments enjoying this painting together.*
3. *Read the verse. Talk about the questions together. Give them plenty of time to answer and listen carefully to what they say. Feel free to ask more questions that come to mind.*
4. *Reinforce the truth that Jesus loves this child and is holding out his arms to them in love.*
5. *Close with a short prayer, either led by you or the child.*