

International Bible Lessons Commentary
Luke 18:15-17 & Mark 10:16
English Standard Version

International Bible Lessons
Sunday, May 22, 2016

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, is from **Luke 18:15-17 & Mark 10:16**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** discusses *Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further* to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. If you are a Bible student or teacher, you can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the **International Bible Lesson Forum**.

International Bible Lesson Commentary

Luke 18:15-17

(Luke 18:15) Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

As a loving parent or grandparent, what kind of a person would you seek out to touch or hold your baby or child? Some might choose a movie star or sports legend or politician. From what we know about the Pharisees, it would be hard to imagine crowds of people rushing to them with their babies for their blessing. Likewise, it is hard to imagine the Pharisees allowing themselves to be bothered by children. Jesus was different; even in the midst of His last journey to Jerusalem, where He would suffer and be crucified for sinners, Jesus drew parents and children to himself and welcomed them. Parents and children knew immediately that Jesus would bless them and their children. Only the disciples, who usually considered themselves to be very important as Jesus' followers, rebuked the parents who brought their children to Jesus.

(Luke 18:16) But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

Jesus did not consider the babies brought to Him or the children who rushed to be near Him as beneath His attention or other important work. When Jesus saw children nearby, He actually called to them to come to Him, and He commanded His disciples and encouraged their parents to let them come to Him and not say or do anything that might discourage or restrain them from

coming to Him. The kingdom of God belongs to children and to all who freely, lovingly, and longingly want to be near Jesus.

(Luke 18:17) Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

As a parent or teacher in a church that loves Jesus and teaching the Bible, think of how the little children love to learn about Jesus, Bible stories on their age level, and those who are accepting and loving toward them. Many children love Sunday school and rush to their classes with eagerness. They trust God, the Bible, and their Sunday school teachers. They do not fear God, but love to learn more about God and Jesus and what Jesus did. They have received the kingdom of God, and they are in a right relationship with God. When the truth of God’s Word and the Spirit of Jesus Christ impact someone, they enter into and participate in the kingdom of God in ways similar to these little children. When believers trust in Jesus as their King, they want to learn more about the Kingdom of God and the Bible’s teachings. They maintain a strong desire to learn more of God the Father, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. You can see the joy that Christ brings into their lives; the same joy that we see in the faces of little children when they are with those they love.

Mark 10:16

(Mark 10:16) And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Jesus did not keep children at arm's length, and when we come to Jesus with the trusting love and faith of a little child, Jesus will not keep us at arm's length. Jesus will take us in His arms, embrace us, fill us with His love, and never let us go. He will place His hands upon us and bless us and grant us eternal life with Him both now and forevermore. Jesus' love for all people, and especially little children, impressed His disciples, and the Holy Spirit insured that they included some examples of Jesus welcoming and blessing children. At times, Jesus even called His disciples "children" (see John 13:33). Jesus brings more than temporary happiness to those who come to Him; He changes people's lives and gives them eternal joy. Jesus fills believers with joyful expectations and comforting truths that continually draw them closer to God in Jesus Christ.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Think of Jesus and a movie star, a sports legend, and a politician. What are some of the qualities of each that attract people and their children to them?
2. How do you think the little children felt when Jesus called them to Him?
3. How do believers in Jesus feel when they go to Him in prayer?
4. Why does the kingdom of God "belong to such as these"?

5. Jesus sometimes called His disciples “children.” Do you think of yourself as a child of Jesus? If so, what does that mean to you?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly
International Bible Lesson.

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