

Let the children come



Prayer Sign of the Cross. Let's pray. (See p. 133)



quietly by yourselves

Where aren't children allowed?

Have you ever been left out, told that you are too young to join in?

when each child has had time to think

When did it happen to you?

Why do you think adults don't always want children around?

Sometimes because it's dangerous. Sometimes it's because it's late and children need their sleep. Sometimes it's because children run about and get under everyone's feet.



One day mums and dads brought their children to meet Jesus. They wanted Jesus to bless them. The friends of Jesus (the apostles) tried to send them away.

welcome the Gospel. Sing Alleluia. (See p. 220)

all stand (adapted from Mark 10:13–16)



Jesus saw what was happening and he said,
"Never send the children away, let them come to me".

Then he put his arms around them and gave them his blessing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

all sit (some suggestions)

Jesus never turns anyone away.

What would you have done if you had been there?

Would you be too scared to go forward?

Would you only go forward if your sister/brother went with you?

Would you have jumped onto his knee, touched his beard?

Do you like the feel of beards?

Where would you have stood?

What would you have said to Jesus?

What do you think he would have said to you?



WE ARE THE FAMILY OF GOD

VISUAL AIDS

> Pictures of families of different nationalities.

SHARING

Invite the children to remember and share memories of happy times they have spent with their families. What do they like best about their family? What things do they like to

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Good News given to us by Mark.
Glorify to you, Lord.

Singing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we live in love,
God will live in us.
Alleluia!

People were bringing their children to Jesus for him to touch them. Some of Jesus' friends thought the children were being a nuisance, so they began sending them away. When Jesus saw this he said
Let the children come to me. Do not stop them. It is to these children and

do with their family?
Today we have a psalm about a happy family.
All say or sing the response together, and do the actions during the verses.
Arms raised in prayer
May the Lord bless us all our life.
Mime working actions
Happy are those who love the Lord, and follow his ways.
They will find happiness in their work. *Response*

those who are like them that the kingdom belongs.

Jesus put his arms round the children, laid his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'Wife' in the centre, with a circle of 'children' who dance round her
Your wife will be the heart of your family;
your children will gather round in love. *Response*
Children wave and dance around
Happy those who love the Lord.
They and their children's children will live in peace. *Response*

DISCUSSION

What did Jesus' followers think of the children?
So what did they do?
Are we ever like them?
Are there people we think are too much bother, and push them away?

Little brothers and sisters, perhaps?
How did Jesus treat the children?
What do you think he would want us to do?

ACTIVITIES

Have the children act out the Gospel.
Give out blank pieces of paper and have the children:
either, draw a picture of happy times with their family;
or, write a prayer for their family.

