

*Sunday School Lesson, April 19, 2026*  
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*Mike Moore, Superintendent*

**Lesson—The Beauty of Dependence<sup>1</sup>**

**Text: Mark 9:36-37, 42; 10:13-16**

**I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Assess your life goals considering Jesus' invitation to become "like children."
2. Approach God with childlike faith.
3. Review and, if necessary, revise the church's mission statement to better protect and serve the community.

**Why This Lesson Matters:** Jesus teaches that true greatness comes from becoming "like children," whose status is derived from their relationship to the Father—demonstrating that wealth and power are futile in God's economy. .

**Key Verse:** *Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. (Mark 10:15, KJV).*

**II. Topical Outline of the Lesson (from the Townsend Commentary)**

1. Introduction
2. The Welcoming of God (Mark 9:36-37)
3. The Danger of Hurting Children (Mark 9:42)
4. Bring Them to Be Blessed (Mark 10:13-16)

**III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson**

**Jesus:** The incarnate Son of God who demonstrated love and self-sacrifice, teaching a higher ethic of devotion to God above all else. The crucified and risen Son of God—the Messiah who fulfills the promises of the Hebrew scriptures and offers salvation to all who trust in him.

**The Twelve Apostles:** ordinary working men chosen and trained for ministry by Jesus. They received His teachings, witnessed His miracles, and serve as models of discipleship in progress—learning, questioning, and growing under Jesus' instruction.

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<sup>1</sup> Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at [www.sspbnb.com](http://www.sspbnb.com)

**IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)**

*Believe*

*Child*

*Enter*

*Hinder*

*Rebuked*

*Receive*

**V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context**

Mark chapters 9 and 10 move quickly through several key events: the transfiguration, the healing of a boy with an unclean spirit, Jesus' teaching about his death and resurrection, and his lessons on discipleship. One of his most striking demonstrations came when the disciples argued about the greatness in the Kingdom. To answer, Jesus called the children to come to him. Society was heavily male-dominated, and children had few rights, yet they were expected to contribute to family life. For Jesus to embrace children was remarkable. It redefined how God views heaven and humanity.

**Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)**

Children are representative of those who part of the kingdom, and the way that we treat and receive them is an indication of how we would treat the Lord. If we mistreat children then we should not expect to enter the kingdom of God.

**Closing Hymn:** *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

**Sunday School Slogan:** *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*