

Home Group Notes **Testing Times 5** **Mark 10:13-16** Treating children well

Introduction

We have different attitudes to children and their place in the world. So did people in Jesus' time. Here we see Jesus' approach to encouraging adults to treat children well.

1. When it comes to your attitude to little children, where would you be on this spectrum?

To be seen but not heard

They should rule the roost.

2. **Read v.13** Why might people bring little children to Jesus? How might we bring little children to Jesus today?
3. Have you ever been a bouncer in a busy venue? Why might the disciples have rebuked these people? If you were managing a big crowd for access to Jesus, who would you put at the front? and towards the back?
4. **Read v.14** Our attitudes to children often cause strong reactions. Why is that? Do you have strong feelings regarding children?
5. Do people hinder little children's opportunities for spiritual growth today? Is your reaction as strong as Jesus'?
6. Does Jesus say the kingdom of God belongs to children? Is he saying children are Christians? Does he mean children will go to heaven? What is he saying?
7. **Read v.15** What aspect of childlikeness is Jesus referring to? What do adults need to learn from the little child's way? How necessary is this lesson? What happens to adults who don't learn this from children?
8. What do you think Jesus means by the phrase 'belonging in the kingdom of God'? And 'entering the kingdom of God'?

9. Not childish but childlike; are there aspects of your adult attitudes which you think you need to change in order to be in the kingdom of God?
10. In our society at present, it seems like children are expected to be like adults at a younger age than the previous generation. Is there evidence for saying this? Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?
11. 'Our society encourages children to be more like adults but Jesus encourages adults to be more like children.' From this passage, how true is this?
12. **Read v.16** This shows Jesus was glad to pray with people and not just those who were sick. How can we get better at praying with people when asked?
13. A regrettable aspect of our society is that the description in v.16 might sound a bit like evidence for a charge against a man for inappropriate behaviour leading to a listing on the sex offenders register and a lifetime of being kept away from children! We want to bless children like Jesus did and at the same time fulfil wise safeguarding guidelines. If he walked our land in our times, how might we advise Jesus in this situation?
14. This section of Mark's gospel shows a testing time for Jesus. How have these studies in Mark tested you as well?

Prayer Points

Give thanks that we are averaging over 50 children at St George's each Sunday morning
Pray for the children of our church and the children of our land
Pray for those doing our church membership course and those preparing for confirmation
Pray for our Brightstars and WLTD0 toddler groups