

Year B

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year

The children's friend

INTRODUCTION

Jesus loved to spend time with children, enjoying their laughter, talking to them, and listening to what they had to say. They have always been just as important to him as grownups.

SIGN OF THE CROSS**LIGHT THE CANDLES**

Light the candles and say:

May Christ's love fill our lives with light and chase any darkness away!

SORRY

Help the children to spend some time reflecting on the events of the past week. Have they tried to be thoughtful and kind? Have they remembered to treat each person as though he or she was Jesus himself? After a few quiet moments, sing Sorry Song 4 together.

GLORIA**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Help us to listen to your word, Lord,
and put your love into action in our lives.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL (MARK 10:13-16)

People would often bring children to Jesus to be blessed by him. One day the disciples sent the children away to let Jesus get some rest. But seeing this, Jesus scolded his disciples and said, "Let them come to me, and do not stand in their way. Anyone wishing to enter the kingdom of God must first become like one of these little children." Then taking them in his arms, he blessed each one of them.

DISCUSSION

Jesus had been preaching to the crowds all day, and his disciples knew that he was feeling tired. When the disciples saw a group of children coming, and heard their excited chatter and laughter,

they wanted them to go away and let Jesus have some peace and quiet.

But Jesus scolded the disciples for trying to send the children away. Jesus wanted to spend time with them, talking and listening to what they had to say. The children were just as important to him as grownups.

Have you ever found that sometimes grownups are too busy or tired to listen to you, and you just seem to be getting in their way? At such times it can be very difficult to get their attention and make them really listen to what you have to say.

Jesus was never too busy or tired to listen to children. Even though Jesus felt tired, he did not send the children away. He was always ready to listen to them.

Why did Jesus say that grownups need to become more like children to enter the kingdom of God? Children love Jesus and trust in his goodness. They listen to his message and are ready to try to live as he taught them. They know Jesus as a special friend, who is never too busy to listen to them.

Adults should remember to love and to listen to Jesus like children do. If they do this, their lives will be pleasing to God and they will share eternal life with him in the kingdom of heaven.

ACTIVITY

Copy and cut out the figure of Jesus, then paste it in the middle of a large sheet of paper. Ask each child to draw a picture of themselves with their name, and help them to cut these out. Let each child stick their picture around Jesus, and add the caption "Let the children come to me."

CREED**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, friend of little children,
you are always ready to listen
to what we have to say.

As we become adults,
help the special trust and friendship
we share with you as children
grow within us
and draw us ever closer to you.

LET THE CHILDREN
COME TO ME!

