

Everyday **FAITH** Family Page

Delivered

Law/Gospel

Because of my sin, I am helpless and needy and can do nothing to save myself. **Jesus works through the Means of Grace to invite me to come to Him, blessing me with His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.**

Bible Words

[Jesus says,] "Let the little children come to Me." Matthew 19:14

Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank You for welcoming all people to come to You. Thank You for loving us so much You died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins. Thank You for Your blessings of forgiveness of sins, new life, faith in You, and a place in Your kingdom. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Welcomes the Children

Matthew 19:13–15; Luke 18:15–17

Following His Baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus began His earthly ministry, teaching about the kingdom of heaven, healing, and working other miracles. It's no wonder Jesus drew large crowds of people wherever He went. He presented the love of God and salvation as a free gift of God's grace, rather than as a consequence of our best efforts to keep the Law. He taught about loving, forgiving, and showing mercy to one's neighbor. He spent time with those the rest of society often rejected.

Jesus took time from His demanding schedule to welcome and embrace children. Likely with the best intentions, the disciples rebuked the children. Perhaps they believed Jesus was far too important to trifle with little ones. Maybe they believed children were too limited to grasp His divine teachings. Regardless, our Lord makes clear that the little children are welcome. What's more, He uses a child's humility and natural trust to explain key elements of the Christian life.

God's desire to bring salvation to the little children extends to people of all ages, even today. For this reason, God has given us His Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. The Bible teaches that through the Means of Grace, God draws lost and condemned sinners out of sin, death, and hell and brings them forgiveness and everlasting life in heaven. His Word and Sacraments are His divine and effectual means to bring what Christ earned on the cross to all, even the little children!