

Dear Parents,

This week's lesson shows the importance of being open and receptive like little children. The kingdom of God must be received as a gift; it cannot be achieved by human effort. It may be entered only by those who know they are helpless and without claim or merit.

This is a favorite event in the life of Jesus for our young ones since Jesus told a lesson about them.

### **The Teachings of Jesus**

Crowds of people came to Jesus to hear him teach. Sometimes he performed miracles and they

knew he came from God. He taught them many things.

**Jesus' Teachings** Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7.

Once he taught on a mountainside near the Sea of Galilee. He told people how they should live so that they would be happy and pleasing to God.

He told them to be peacemakers; they would be called the children of God.

He told them to love their enemies, and to do good to people who hated them. They were to pray for people who mistreated them.

He said they were to be like salt, like a city on a hill and like a light that would light the way for others. His followers were to be a good influence on others and try to get other people to do the right thing.

He wanted people to share with others out of love for them.

"Do not judge others", he told them. "And don't worry about things. God will take care of you."

### **The Importance of Children**

Mark 10:13-16

Jesus loved children. No matter how tired he was, he liked to have the children at his side.

One day a group of mothers brought their children to Jesus, to be blessed by him. His disciples thought Jesus was too busy to be bothered by the children, so they were sending the children away. Jesus stopped them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." And he put his hands on them and blessed them.

Memory verse: Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God. Mark 10:14

*Listen to the story of Jesus and the Children at: <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl26s.htm>*