



FAITH

& LOVE

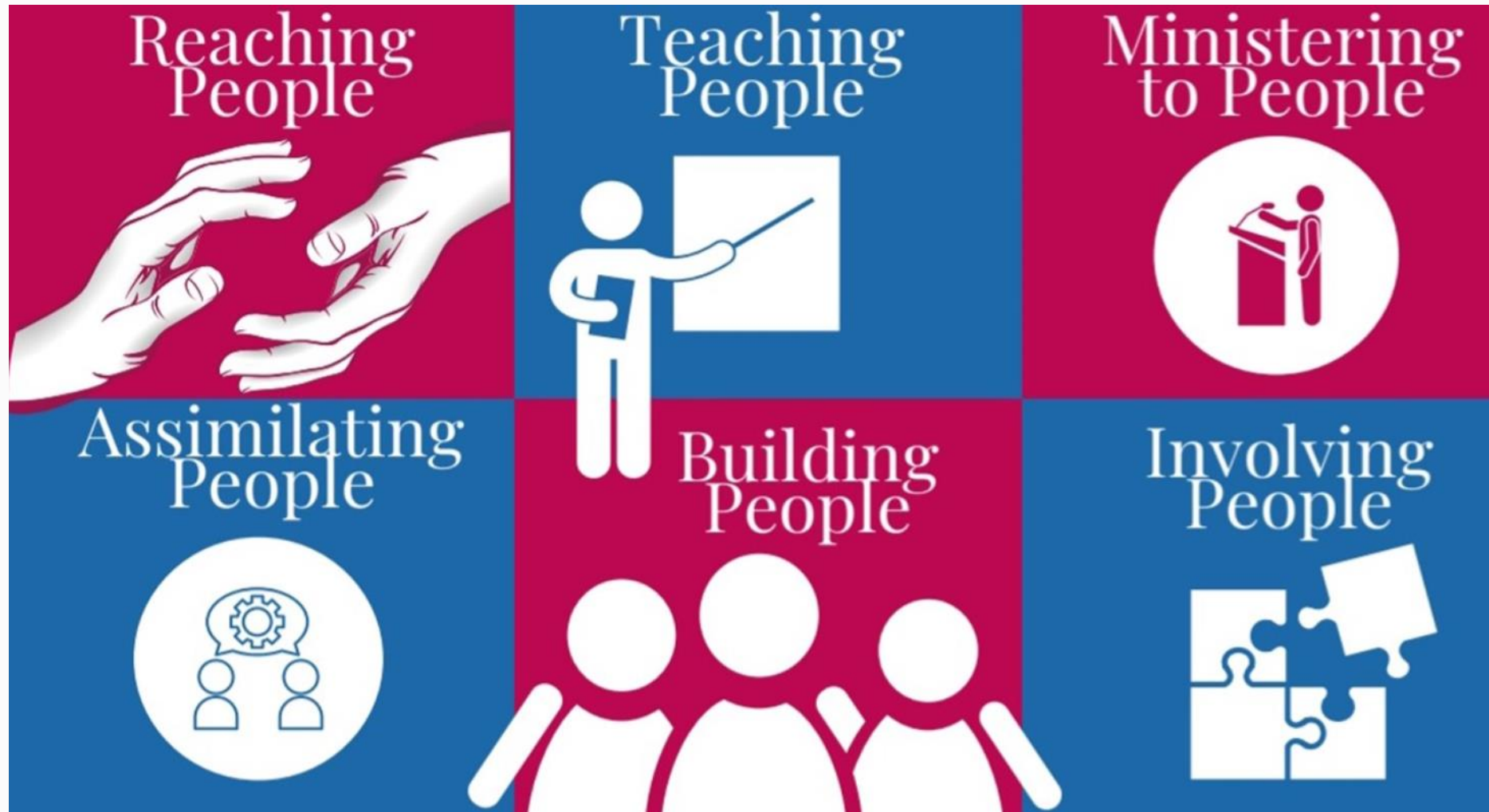
Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026

CHILDLIKE FAITH

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026

CHILDLIKE FAITH



- Bible Basis: Luke 18:15-17; Mark 10:16
- Bible Truth: Jesus taught that to receive the gift of the Kingdom of God, the faithful must become as children.
- Memory Verse: “Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein” (Luke 18:17)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: KNOW Jesus valued children and that they were models for His Kingdom; BELIEVE that we should seek to cultivate in ourselves the qualities of children; and COMMIT to self-examinations and improvements with childlike faith.
- Background Scriptures: [Isaiah 11:1-9](#); [Mark 10:13-16](#) – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



Luke 18:15-17; Mark 10:16 KJV

15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Mark 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Infants and children. Jewish people highly valued children, the instruments through which their legacy as a people and as individual families would continue ([Genesis 1:28](#)). As a result, children were viewed as a blessing ([Psalm 127:3-5](#)). Even still, children had no social status and were considered unimportant in society. Not so with Jesus, who welcomed children, thwarting the disciples' attempt to block the children's access to Him.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Laying on of hands. An act of blessings and/ or healing. In the Old Testament, laying on of hands is used to bless children ([Genesis 48:13-20](#)) or appoint someone to a position ([Numbers 27:15-23](#)). This practice continues in the New Testament. The teachers and prophets at Antioch laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas in order to bless their ministry and confirm their new positions as apostles ([Acts 13:1-3](#)). Jesus healed many by laying on hands – a leper ([Matthew 8:2-3](#)), Peter's mother-in-law ([Matthew 8:14-15](#)), Jairus' daughter ([Luke 8:54](#)), a man who was deaf and mute ([Mark 7:31-35](#)), and others. Paul warns Timothy against hastily laying hands on others because it also indicates a responsibility or sharing in their actions ([1 Timothy 5:22](#)).

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will learn that a child's openness to life is a worthy model to follow.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Loves and Respects Children

In Luke 18, Jesus taught two parables about prayer: one with an emphasis on persistent prayer that revealed God as just, the other concerning humility in prayer. Sometime after these teachings, parents brought their children to Jesus "that he would touch them" ([18:15](#)).

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Loves and Respects Children

The parents' actions mirrored the lessons in Jesus' parables. They persisted in bringing their children despite social norms that dictated otherwise, and they exemplified humility, believing Jesus had the power to heal. The disciples missed the similarities and an ideal opportunity to demonstrate that they understood Jesus' teaching that God is just and rewards the humble. More troubling, they rebuked the parents, proving they did not have the heart of their leader.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Loves and Respects Children

According to Mark, "[Jesus] was much displeased" ([Mark 10:14, KJV](#)) when the disciples did this. Therefore, He rebuked the disciples, informing them that the Kingdom of God is made up of believers who approach Him and His Kingdom with childlike faith. Jesus then "took [the children] up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them" ([from Mark 10:16, KJV](#)). By doing so, Jesus reinforced that He valued children, as well as believers who embodied childlike faith.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will understand that Jesus placed a high value on children and their ability to show openness and trust.

I. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Luke 18:15; Mark 10:16

Throughout the Old and New Testament, covenant believers have been dubbed "children" to denote their relationship as people of God and beneficiaries of covenant access and blessings. The term first referred to the Israelites but now also applies to born-again believers. The Apostle Paul explains, "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in [us]" ([Romans 8:11](#)), and that we "received God's Spirit when he adopted [us] as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.' For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs" (from vv. 15-17). Jesus' touching the children reaffirms that God welcomes all who come to Him.

I. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Luke 18:15; Mark 10:16

The Gospel of Luke sharing stories with Mark deserves some attention, as they had different motives in their writing. In [Mark 10:1-12](#), for instance, Mark writes about marriage and divorce – a subject which connects well with subject of blessing children. Luke's avoiding this section and placing this story among others talking about discipleship and the Kingdom of God suggests a different emphasis. Most of the material in [Mark 10:1-12](#) is paralleled in various places in Luke's Gospel, so he may have left it out intentionally.

I. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Luke 18:15; Mark 10:16

Luke builds up his story of Jesus' progress toward Jerusalem, preparing the reader for the crescendo coming in [Luke 19:28-46](#) – with Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. As Luke comes toward the end of this travel section, the theme of the Kingdom of God becomes prominent. In this chapter, he dedicates these three verses to this story of parents bringing even infants to be touched by Jesus following the two parables – one about the desperate woman and the unjust judge and the other about a Pharisee and a publican in prayer at the Temple – which, taken together, are about the vindication of God for God's people living in humility and with penitent faith.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



I. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Luke 18:15; Mark 10:16

15 People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it.

While Matthew and Mark say little children (Gk. *paidia*, **pie-DEE-ah**), were brought to Jesus, Luke says they were infants (Gk. *brephe*, **BREH-phay**). He makes his emphasis by adding "even" to the statement, suggesting that the children were among other people being brought to Jesus. Possibly some brought toddlers or diseased elders to be healed, but the disciples found bringing infants problematic. Luke says that the parents brought the children to Jesus so He might touch them. Matthew says for Jesus to "put His hands on them and pray," or invoke a "blessing" on them ([Matthew 19:13](#)), while Mark adds that Jesus "laid his hands on them, and blessed them" ([Mark 10:16](#)).

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



I. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Luke 18:15; Mark 10:16

15 People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it.

Bringing children to the elderly for blessing is a custom that we find in the Old Testament ([Genesis 48:14-15](#)). As a longstanding tradition, people brought their children to the elders, scribes, or rabbis for a prayer of blessing on the evening of the Day of Atonement, believing that the blessings of a respected religious figure would be beneficial. Jewish children were brought to the rabbi for a blessing on their first birthday. Some cultures still do this today, such as in most parts of Africa and the Middle East where respectable elders pronounce blessings upon children. These blessings are believed to be able to influence someone's future.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



I. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Luke 18:15; Mark 10:16

15 People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it.

When the disciples saw the infants brought to Jesus, they rebuked "them," probably both the parents and the children. Jesus may have been busy and the disciples felt it necessary to protect His time and priorities. They probably thought it would waste Jesus' time and abuse His kindness. Children can wait, after all, or come another day. Matthew precedes this story with Jesus agreeing with the disciples that, "It is better not to marry" ([Matthew 19:10, NIV](#)), suggesting that the solitary life, like eunuchs with no family ties to claim attention, is better for the work of the Kingdom. Was this teaching still on their minds? Would Jesus giving attention to these children be a waste of precious time?

II. A FATHER'S REBUKE

Luke 18:15-16

Jesus, the consummate mentor, fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy: "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will delight in obeying the Lord" ([Isaiah 11:2-3](#)). As such, He trained the disciples in accurate doctrine and taught them God's ways. As any good mentor, He also corrected the disciples as necessary. Today we benefit from the same rebuke that turns our heart to Father God. And each mature believer who has childlike faith will believe God and gladly follow His spiritual guidance.

II. A FATHER'S REBUKE

Jesus' Special Children Invitation

Luke 18:15-16

16 But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

However, when Jesus saw this, Mark tells us that He was greatly displeased. He called the children to Himself and said to the disciples, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them" ([v.16, NKJV](#)). "Let" (NLT) or "suffer" (KJV) is from the Greek verb *aphiemi* (**ah-FEE-ay-mee**) which means to physically release or set free, or in a figurative sense to permit or to forgive with regard to sin. Jesus is telling the adults not to hold the children back, suggesting that their instinct draws them to Him. No one is too small to be brought to Jesus; He has time to attend to even the least of us. He will attend to those who can do nothing for Him – even infants. What a difference it would make for the church if many Christians followed this example. The measure of a person is how they treat those who cannot reciprocate. This Gospel is needed especially now, when Christian communities are not sure what to do with the poor in their societies.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



II. A FATHER'S REBUKE
Jesus' Special Children Invitation

Luke 18:15-16

16 But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Jesus added that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. Of course, it is not simply these children, but all who are spiritually like children. He makes children models of what it takes to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God. He says they most truly show us what it means to accept and enter God's Kingdom. Nolland writes, "Is it their openness, willingness to trust, freedom from hypocrisy or pretention, conscious weakness and readiness for dependence?" The helplessness of children, and their complete trust of those who love and care for them, perfectly demonstrate the humble trust Jesus has been speaking of all along. Plummer adds, "It is not these children, nor all children, but those who are childlike in character, especially in humility and trustfulness, who are best suited for the Kingdom." These qualities are essential for entry into the Kingdom of God.

III. AWAKENING THE INNER FAITH-CHILD

Luke 18:17

Jesus taught that to receive the gift of the Kingdom of God, the faithful must become as children: open, attentive, and receptive to what God has freely given. Children's openness often manifests as curiosity; they are able to make new friends and experience new things simply because they are willing to trade the familiar for something new and different. At the time adults doubted whether Jesus was the Messiah, children chanted "hosanna" ([Matthew 21:15-16](#)).

III. AWAKENING THE INNER FAITH-CHILD

Luke 18:17

Then, too, as natural children undergo growth and development, so do we as God's spiritual children. We grow through Bible study, fellowship with other believers, church attendance, and other spiritual disciplines. We flourish as we choose God's choice spiritual fare: "milk" representing the Word of God, and "meat" representing His will ([1 Peter 2:2, John 4:34](#)).

III. AWAKENING THE INNER FAITH-CHILD

Luke 18:17

Many adults look down on children, despising their noise, naivete, and rambunctiousness. But their very best qualities are ones worth emulating and cultivating as we grow in Christ. That can only happen if we examine ourselves. Are we too exclusive, not allowing others to join our fellowships or learn from our spiritual experiences? Do we exhibit fear, refusing to step out in faith as God directs us in relationships, careers, or ministry opportunities? Do we hold tightly to the familiar ways of doing things, shutting down our younger believers whose ideas could enhance our churches, families, or workplaces? Honestly answering these questions will help us shed practices that inhibit our childlike faith.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



**III. AWAKENING THE INNER
FAITH-CHILD**

Faith and Trust

Luke 18:14

17 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Luke brings his lesson to its climax: childlike humility is the gateway to the Kingdom. Jesus makes an earnest statement: "Truly, I tell you." He continues, away from the great displeasure that Mark mentioned earlier, to a teachable moment. He delivers a profound lesson that must change the disciples' lives – pride which may have led them to send the children away must give way to humility – and is modeled by the children themselves. Jesus declares that living in the Kingdom of God is only possible through childlike faith in a God who cares for us as His own children. However, this trust is not easy; it is a constant work in progress, for pride always looks to take us away from God's presence.

III. AWAKENING THE INNER FAITH-CHILD

Faith and Trust

Luke 18:14

Mark 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Luke's account finishes with the lesson that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. After this, Luke begins to talk about the rich young ruler – another story that teaches humility and self-denunciation as the key to the Kingdom of God. However, Mark finishes the story with Jesus actually taking the children up in His arms, laying His hands on them, and blessing them. Jesus does more than what was asked of Him: He embraces them, lifting them in His arms.

III. AWAKENING THE INNER FAITH-CHILD

Faith and Trust

Luke 18:14

Mark 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Not only that, He blesses them (Gk. *eulogeo*, **ew-lo-GEH-oh**), meaning that He praises them and even shows them special favor. This continues the lesson that Jesus is teaching His disciples, not just by what He says but also by what He does: not just humility toward God, but also humility toward even "the least of these" ([Matthew 25:45](#)). If they sent the children away to protect His time, He shows them that even these children deserve His time. True Kingdom humility cares for those who, like children, are sometimes marginalized.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



LIGHT ON THE WORD

Children's Attitude and the Kingdom

The children represent the attitude that a person must have if he or she is to receive the Kingdom of God. In addition, Jesus is saying that children are welcome in God's Kingdom. God is available to them; His kingdom is not only for adults.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will know that believers should develop a childlike faith that cultivates a deeper trust, respects, and honors God.

BIBLE APPLICATION

It's so important to train children in godly instruction ([Proverbs 22:6](#)) and allow them to make decisions for Christ when young. Turning them away only leaves one alternative-the world. As we model Christ-like faith and behavior for children, we whet their appetites for God, His Word, and His Kingdom. When we show them that we can also learn from their examples of open, childlike faith, we also demonstrate to them their importance as current or future believers. Finally, God has no favorites ([Acts 10:34-35](#)), and He welcomes a close, satisfying relationship with each of His children – at the expense of none.

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will appreciate that believers can develop a better sense of how to develop a stronger relationship with God through having a childlike faith.

STUDENT RESPONSES

What area of your faith has most suffered from your inability to exercise childlike faith? Have you drawn back from mission trips, financial giving, or praying for the sick and shut in? This week, ask God to help you return to your childlike faith in at least one of those areas. Then look for opportunities to exercise that faith this week.

Prayer

God,

Our faith is sometimes not as strong as it should be. We waiver in our faith and have doubt because we cannot see or know what You are doing. Bless us to have and keep a childlike faith in our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Lesson 13 May 24, 2026
CHILDLIKE FAITH



Next Sunday
May 31, 2026
Lesson 14
“Joyous Faith”
Luke 19:1-10