

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 1

Jesus—Obeying Willingly as a Child

Point to Emphasize: As we grow, we can be those who learn to obey just like Jesus did.

Reference Reading: Luke 2:40-52; Matthew 13:55-56

Memory Verse: And the little child grew and became strong, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him. (Luke 2:40)

Story Sample

For some time now, we have been hearing stories about the children of Israel. Who have our stories been about? (Let them give several names.) All these stories come from the part of the Bible called the Old Testament. Now, we are going to tell some stories from the New Testament. Who is the main person in the New Testament? Jesus! That is right. Now, I'm sure we have all heard some stories about Jesus. But maybe you haven't heard the one we're going to tell you today.

Do you know that Jesus was at one time a little boy just your age?! It is pretty amazing, isn't it? We often think of Him only as a man, someone who is already grown up. But Jesus started the same way we all started. First, He was a baby growing in a hidden way inside His mom. Then He was born. Who has seen a baby recently? Babies are so small and need our care. Then they all start growing and soon they are crawling, then walking, and then running around the house. And before you know it, they are helping to clean up the toys, helping to put on their shoes and helping to brush their teeth. And by the age of 5 or 6, they can do so many things. Right?! Just like you.

Jesus grew up just like you, and just like you, He learned to obey his parents. Sometimes, it is not so easy for us to do. When you are playing, making a fort, or doing something you love to do, it becomes hard to obey when mom says, "Please stop what you are doing and come help me set the table." Sometimes it seems that we just can't stop and take care of what we were asked to do. But Jesus was always obedient. He learned to obey. I think we can do the same! *[Storyteller, insert your own story about a time when you obeyed.]*

Here is a story from the Bible where Jesus obeyed. When Jesus turned twelve, He traveled with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem in a large company of relatives and friends. After keeping the Feast of the Passover for seven days, they all began a journey back home to Nazareth. But after a day's journey out of the city of Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary could not find Jesus. As the large company of people headed back to Nazareth, Joseph and Mary expected to find Jesus with one of their relatives or among their friends. After a day of traveling and seeking Jesus among the company, they still could not find Him. What had happened? Where was He? They returned to Jerusalem to search for Him and found Him in the temple, sitting in the middle of a group of Jewish men who were the top teachers of God's Word.

Even though Jesus loved being there among those who knew God's Word, when asked, he obeyed his parents and he went back home with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth. As a child, He still kept Himself under the authority and control of His parents. He grew up as a teenager following their rules and ways of living. So often, as children, we think, "Oh, when I grow up, I will do whatever I want to. I won't have to listen to what my parents say then!" But here is Jesus, a boy of twelve deciding that He would remain under the authority and control of His parents. This means he decided to still OBEY. And because He decided this, He was a blessed boy growing up to full manhood.

This week we should all sing, "It's better to obey! / It's better to obey! Listen to your parent's way— / It's better to obey." When we sing this song and remember the obedient life that Jesus lived, it will be easier for us to obey.

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 2 **Jesus—Advancing in Wisdom and Stature**

Point to Emphasize: We can advance as we grow, taking more responsibility.

Reading Reference: Matthew 1:16; 2:23; Mark 6:1-3

Memory Verse: But know that Jehovah sets apart the faithful man for Himself... (Psalm 4:3a)

Story Sample

You are maybe 5 to 7 years old. I have some questions for you. Can you get dressed, get some car keys, and drive to work? Can you open your refrigerator and get the uncooked chicken out and prepare a full meal for your family? No! Right?! Well, at least not yet. These responsibilities are for grownups! For you to be able to do some of these tasks, you will have to wait a few more years.

While you are growing up, you will have some responsibilities. That's a long word. Can we all spell it together? R-E-S-P-O-N-S-I-B-I-L-I-T-Y. As you grow older, you will be able to have more responsibilities added to you.

I will use laundry as an example. When I was your age, every day, I had the responsibility of putting my dirty clothes in the hamper. But as I grew older, my mom then taught me to help her to sort dirty clothes by colors before putting them into the washing machine. Later on, she taught me how to load the washing machine and how to add the detergent. Doing this was my favorite part! I got to climb over the top of the washing machine to add detergent, with her help of course! As years went on, I was washing, drying, folding, and putting away all my clothing and even my younger sister's clothing! I started just with a little responsibility, but as I grew older and was able to understand and do more, my mom was able to give me more responsibilities! *[Storyteller, share one of the responsibilities you learned while you were growing up.]*

As He was growing up, Jesus' life was probably the same as ours in many ways. He also needed to learn how to do different things and get more responsibilities as He grew. His family settled in a village called Nazareth. Jesus did all the things the oldest son in a family needed to do, picking up more and more responsibilities as he continued to grow older. Probably, he helped his mother with his younger siblings. He may have helped to cook, set the table, wash the dishes, and clean up the house. As Jesus grew up in a family that loved God, He also learned God's Word. As Jesus continued to grow in the family, he spent much time reading God's Word and loving and worshiping God. Growing in responsibility and learning the Word of God caused Jesus to grow in a normal way in all wisdom and stature!

When he was older, he also learned a trade from Joseph. A trade is a skilled job. So, this means that he was becoming more responsible and was now able to learn to work. Carpentry work requires you to use your hands and have special training. Jesus learned some carpentry skills from Joseph. Have you seen carpenters work? A carpenter cuts wood and makes wooden objects and structures. When you go home, see how many objects made of wood you have in your house. You might find a table, a desk, and maybe even your bed are all wooden. If a piece of wood is cut crookedly, it becomes completely useless. Jesus learned carpentry not as a hobby but as a job, so he could help Joseph provide for their family.

I hope that from now on when your mom or dad gives you a task to do, you will be full of excitement! Why? Because that means that you are growing up. It means you are advancing in a normal way! Let's be those that are happy to take on more responsibilities until one day we can grow to be useful to God, a skilled and responsible person just like Jesus.

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 3
Jesus—Pleasing His Heavenly Father

Point to Emphasize: As we grow, we can be those who please our parents.

Reference Reading: Matthew 3:17; 12:18; Mark 1:11

Memory Verse: ...This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. (Matthew 3:17)

Story Sample

When I was your age, I would get a report card from school four times a year. My parents were always pleased to see that I was making progress and getting good grades in school, but the most important things my dad looked at were the citizenship marks. Citizenship was not about how well you read or how well you write. Citizenship was all about how you behaved. Did you obey the teacher? Did you talk when you should be quiet? Were you nice to others? In my school, you could get a U for unsatisfactory, an S for satisfactory, or an E for excellent. Citizenship was so important to my parents. My dad was always pleased when I got all E's in citizenship for "Excellent" behavior. It pleased him to know I was behaving well in school. I was so glad inside that I pleased my parents and that I had not disappointed them with poor behavior. *[Storyteller, speak as the third person if this was not your experience.]*

Now, this morning we have a verse from Matthew. Matthew is the first book in the New Testament. It says in Matthew that the Heavenly Father has found delight in His Son, the Beloved. This tells us that He is so pleased with His Son Jesus! WOW!!! He even calls Him the Beloved! This is like getting an E on your citizenship report card every day! This is amazing! Each day as Jesus grew up, and was becoming a boy, a young person, and finally an adult, His Heavenly Father found delight in His Son! It probably also made Jesus happy to be called "the Beloved" and to know that His Father was delighted in who He was and how he behaved.

When Jesus obeyed His parents, it was like earning an E for His citizenship, his behavior among others. When He was kind to His brothers and sisters, completed His chores to help His family, read God's Word or recited a verse or talked about God to those around Him, His Heavenly Father found delight in Him.

I wish I had heard this when I was your age. I'm afraid that I did things as I grew up that did not please my parents. I can even remember when my dad was very upset at me for behaving so badly. Maybe if I had heard this kind of story when I was your age, I would have thought more about how I was behaving at school, towards my mom or sister, or with my friends. I would have thought, "Would my dad be pleased if he heard me talk in this mean way to my sister? Would he be happy if I don't obey my mom right now?". Many times I think I may have been able to change my behavior, because I would have known my parents would not be happy with it.

That is why I am so GLAD that you are hearing this now! It can help you! Just think about Jesus and how He pleased His Heavenly Father every single day! That is so great! We can be those who please our parents, in how we behave every day!

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 4 Jesus—the One Who Forgives

Point to Emphasize: We want to be those who forgive others.

Reference Reading: Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 17:3, 4

Memory Verse: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another...
(Ephesians 4:32a)

Story Sample

These last few weeks we have been talking about Jesus and what a fine person he was as a man. He was obedient, responsible, and a delight to His Heavenly Father. Today I'd like to tell you, that He was also forgiving. It's a hard thing to forgive others, isn't it?

When I was young, I argued with my sisters sometimes. Don't get me wrong! I loved my sisters, but sometimes we would have arguments. We would get mad at each other and in the end, someone would always say something mean and hurt the other's feelings. Then, my mom would step in and make us say we were sorry. When that happened, we would have to forgive the one who hurt our feelings, but to tell you the truth, even as I was saying, "I forgive you," deep in my heart, I was thinking, "I'll never forgive you, not in a million years!". Oh, it's very hard to forgive!
[Storyteller, give your example about how hard it is to forgive.]

Jesus was the most forgiving One! One day, a man named Peter came to Jesus with a question. He asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone. Peter said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (Matthew 18:21). SEVEN TIMES!? Wow! That is a lot, isn't it? *[Write "7" on the board.]* Sometimes it's hard enough to forgive once, let alone seven times. Do you think you could do that? For example, your little sister took your favorite teddy bear from you and then accidentally tore the ear off. Would you forgive her? How about if it happened again? Three times? Four? Five? Six? Seven? I don't know if I could do that! It's hard to forgive someone when they keep doing the same thing again and again and again.

But the amazing thing is how Jesus answered Peter when he asked this question. Jesus answered Peter, "I do not say to you, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy times seven" (v. 22). What??!! Seventy times seven? *[Write "70 X 7" on the board.]* I know you haven't started learning multiplication yet, but I can do the math for you. $70 \times 7 = 490$. *[Write on the board "= 490".]* Can you imagine forgiving someone that many times? Oh, I don't know if I could do that!

Now, I don't think Jesus meant exactly 490 times, but what He was saying to Peter is that we need to keep forgiving and forgiving. This is what Jesus did. He could forgive and forgive and forgive.

Jesus pointed out to Peter how important it was to forgive others. The New Testament is filled with examples of Jesus forgiving others. Every day when He met people, He could easily forgive them, even when they didn't ask for it. It's marvelous that He was such a forgiving One. And He told Peter to forgive also. As we grow up, we will have many opportunities when we can forgive others. At those times, we can remember this story and that Jesus said to forgive others again and again and again.

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 5 Jesus—Loving Everyone

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who love others.

Reading Reference: Matthew 9:36; 14:14-21; Mark 8; Luke 9; 15

Memory Verse: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God... (1 John 4:7)

Story Sample

God has placed each one of us around people. Let's see... You have parents, siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. Then, at school, you have teachers and classmates, janitors, and a principal. If you play sports, you have teammates and a coach. Everywhere you go there are people around you! I have a question for you: How do you think we should feel about the people in our lives? *[Let the children answer.]* If your answer was "We should love them", you were right!

What does it mean to love someone? To love someone is to care about that person. I would say that to love someone is to care for them with all your heart and in all your actions! For example, loving your mom goes beyond just saying, "Mom, I love you." You love your mom when you help her by putting your toys away. So, love is not just something you feel, but also the way we can behave towards others showing we care for them!

The Bible says, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God" (1 John 4:7). That means to love everyone! Can we love everyone? Can we even love the naughty ones? Can we even love the ones who are not so nice to us? Let's take a look at how the man Jesus loved. Jesus is the best man that lived on this earth. We want to learn from Him and love like Him! When Jesus lived on this earth, He met many different people. He was willing to help them all, because He loved them. Jesus even went out of His way to help people. One time, He fed thousands of hungry people. He fed them not because He had tons of food, but He fed them because He loved them. The New Testament is filled with stories of Jesus loving those who were sick and those who were healthy, some who were hungry or even well fed, sad or happy, poor or rich, with a good education, and even those who could not even read. Jesus loved everyone! Jesus even loved the ones who were naughty. In the book of Matthew, Jesus said, "Love your enemies" (5:44). Jesus wants us to love everyone! Jesus wants you to love your friends, and He also wants you to love the troublemakers and naughty ones!

I thought that to love the troublemakers was a difficult thing to do, but it is not that hard! I will tell you what I saw one day. When my boys were younger, they loved to go to the playground to go down the slides again and again! One day, there was a boy who decided to go up the slide and sit down right in the middle. My boys couldn't go down the slide with him sitting in the middle of it! I was looking at him thinking, this is a naughty boy. What do you think I did to him? I went to him and with a warm welcoming voice, invited him to play with us. That boy was so happy! He immediately came down the slide and started taking turns with my boys going down the slides. We showed him we loved him! *[Storyteller, include a story where you showed love to someone.]*

You can show you love someone in many different ways. You can show your dad you love him by obeying him! You can show your mom you love her by giving her a big hug. You can show you love your uncle or your aunt by giving them a big smile! You can love your sister or your brother by sharing your favorite toy with them. You can show a classmate, whom you usually wouldn't play with, you love them by including them when you play. You see, there are many things you can do to show others you love them! Let's be this way! Let's love everyone!

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 6

Jesus—Showing Compassion

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who care for others.

Reference Reading: Matthew 15:32-38

Memory Verse: Be full of compassion, even as your Father also is full of compassion. (Luke 6:36)

Story Sample

One time as a child, I saw a baby bird that had fallen from a nest. A bunch of us children gathered around and looked at the bird, wondering what to do. We felt so sorry that the bird had fallen from its nest. We couldn't return that baby bird because the nest was too high in the tree, and we surely could not find that mama bird and tell her to come and get her baby. We all felt so sorry about the baby bird. *[Storyteller, include your own story about showing compassion.]*

I am sure that at some time, as a child, you have felt the same way when you've seen something. Maybe you have felt this way when you watched your friend have a hard time tying their shoes. Maybe you felt this way when you saw someone was afraid to jump 5 steps down the stairs while another child did so easily. Or maybe you felt this way when you heard someone stutter when trying to say certain words. That feeling is a kind understanding and concern for others when they are sad, suffering, or having trouble. This is a good feeling to have when we see someone who is sad or having trouble. It is terrible when someone sees these kinds of things and makes fun instead of showing care.

I want you to know that Jesus always had such a kind understanding and concern for others. So many times He did something to help someone out, because He felt this way for them. Some people think Jesus only went around doing miracles, but really He traveled from place to place and met people who needed care. Instead of turning away from them or mocking them as others might have done, Jesus cared for them.

When Jesus was with people, He always saw their need and took care of it. If they were hungry, He fed them; if they were sick, He healed them. One time a crowd of 4,000 people had been there with Him for three days, listening to Him. He told His disciples that He was moved with compassion for the crowd because now they had nothing to eat. Jesus was not willing to send them home hungry, because He feared they might faint on the way. Jesus had tender care and kind concern for this crowd, so He fed them. With a few loaves of bread and a few small fish, He fed them all.

He helped them because He had compassion for them. Jesus shows us it's not hard to care for others with kindness. When we see someone on the playground who is sad because they fell and skinned their knee, or someone feeling bad because they forgot their lunch, we can be the ones who go and help them. I think if we all were like this, we would enjoy being together more.

It really isn't hard to care for others with kindness. We can easily consider others and show them our care by being friendly to them.

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 7 **Jesus—Including Others**

Point to Emphasize: We want to be those who include others, not merely the ones like us.

Reading Reference: Matthew 9:36; 14:14-21; Mark 8; 10:46-52; Luke 9; 15

Memory Verse: ...But always pursue what is good both for one another and for all.
(1 Thessalonians 5:15b)

Story Sample

Let's think about being in a playground at school. Have you taken a minute to look at the children around you? God created each one of us wonderfully and perfectly! But we all look different.

We all have skin, but you will see many different colors of skin. We all have a mouth to speak, but you might hear children speaking in English, Spanish, Korean, or Chinese. We all have eyes, but you might see some children that need eyeglasses. You might even see some children who are blind. We might all look different, but in God's eyes we are all wonderfully made!

I wonder, how do you choose the ones you will play with? Do you choose the ones who look like you? Do you think that the children that look different from you are less interesting or less fun to be with? I have a story for you!

I knew a boy who sat in a wheelchair because he had an illness that prevented him from walking. I had the thought that this boy had no fun at all, and I always felt sorry for him. One day I visited him at his house. His parents built this ramp in front of his house so he could go in and out of their house. When I went inside the house, I couldn't believe my eyes! This boy had a room much better than mine! His bed could go up and down and lift his head and his legs. My bed was plain flat. He even had a swing inside his room. Then, I started talking with him and found out that this boy was SO smart! He knew all about math and science. From that day on we became friends, and I am happy that I have a friend like him! But I always wondered how much he was included by others. *[Storyteller, share a personal story of being with someone who was physically different than you, but you learned something from him/her or are friends with.]*

Jesus was a person who included others around him. There are many stories in the Bible about this, but I will tell you one of them. There was a blind man called Bartimaeus. When he heard that Jesus was walking by him, he started calling Jesus to be healed by Him. Many of the ones there asked him to be silent. But this man kept calling His name more and more. Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here!" The ones who were around didn't think Jesus had any desire to see this poor blind person, but they had no choice but to bring him to Jesus. Jesus was interested in seeing him and helping him. Jesus healed him! Bartimaeus was now able to see! Jesus included different kinds of people among those who were with Him. He even included the ones whom the people around Him tried to keep away.

WOW! Hearing this story about Jesus inspires me to include all kinds of people! It makes me want to help and play with others around me, even the ones who don't look like me. Jesus was not concerned about how people looked on the outside. He cared for and included others around Him.

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 8
Jesus—His Followers (1)—the Twelve Disciples

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who know Him.

Reading Reference: Matthew 1:1-2; 13:16-18; 21:17 with footnotes; Mark 3:13-14

Memory Verse: And He appointed twelve...so that they might be with Him... (Mark 3:14)

Story Sample

When I was in elementary school, our city held a big parade! There were marching bands, horses pulling wagons, people in western outfits riding horses, floats with western scenes, and more horses! All of us children loved to see that parade. Thousands of families lined the parade route. And everyone let the children be in front. It was a fantastic day! But I was always disappointed because I could never get close enough to pet a horse. All you could do was wave to ones in the parade, and they would wave back. *[Storyteller, include your own story about being in a crowd and only seeing things at a distance.]*

There is always something disappointing about trying to see something when you're in a crowd. Whether it is a crowd on the street, a crowd at the zoo, or a crowd at your school. In a crowd, you can only see at a distance. You can never get as close as you'd like.

And this is how the crowds usually were when they followed Jesus as He traveled from place to place. He would enter a town and quickly there would be a huge crowd around Him. Many really could not see Him due to the crowds, and those in the crowds rarely were able to speak with Him. There were just these huge crowds, people who had heard about Him and wanted to see Him.

But there were some others, some who followed Him. These were the twelve disciples whom Jesus called to follow Him. They were with Him every day. They saw everything He did and said, and how He behaved. These twelve men got to know Jesus. And when He had very important matters to talk about, He would only share and explain it to the ones close to Him. These ones also talked to Him about so many things. They had many conversations together.

I started talking to Jesus when I was young, but I can't remember what I said to Him. Since I have friends who have 5-year-old children, I asked them what their children say when they talk to God. One of them told me that their 5-year-old says, "Thank You, Jesus, for my family. Thank You for everything. Please don't let me have bad dreams." Another mom said that, as they walk, their 5-year-old will say, "Thank You, God, for making me. Thank You for the beautiful flowers." And recently has said, "God, remove this sickness and keep us safe." *[Storyteller, tell your story of talking to God.]*

You can see by these examples that we can talk to Jesus about many things. He wants us to come and talk with Him. We can share with Him all the things that are important to us. Sometimes we may share with Him the things that scare us, like going into our bedroom when it is so dark. Sometimes we may tell Him about how we'd like some friends to play with. There are so many things we can share with Him. And in this way, we will get to know Jesus. How wonderful it is that we can know Jesus. *[End the time by having the children share how or when they talk to Jesus/God.]*

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 9 **Jesus—His Followers (2)—the Women**

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who minister to others, sharing from what we have.

Reading Reference: Luke 8:1-3, note 2¹

Memory Verse: But do not forget doing good and sharing with others... (Hebrews 13:16)

Story Sample

Jesus walked from town to town, and two groups followed Him where He went. As we learned last week, there were twelve men, the disciples, who followed Jesus and we already know what they did. But who was the second group? You might be surprised when you hear who this second group was. Are you ready? This second group was composed of women! Let me tell you some of their names: Mary, another Mary, Joanna and Salome. Now, why women? What could women do when they were following Jesus from village to village? Oh, you might want to listen closely to our story for today!

For Jesus and His disciples, traveling from city to city and village to village was not easy. They often walked on dirt roads. There was no guarantee that they would find a room to stay in at night or that someone would offer to have them eat in their house in the next place. You might not have many comforts when you travel around like this. But the group of women traveling with Jesus and His disciples helped in a practical way taking care of many of their needs. The Bible says that the women “**ministered to them out of their possessions**” (Luke 8:3).

What does “ministered to them out of their possessions” mean? Well, if I have a sack full of bananas, mangos, grapes, oranges, and pears as my possession, what do you get if I minister to you out of my possessions? That’s it! You get what I have. These women had some possessions and they used these to meet the daily needs of Jesus and His disciples. Using their possessions these women did many things and bought many things to take care of Jesus and His disciples as they traveled. These women were willing to help others with what they had.

I hope that you can observe some of the things that women around you do for others. Some women share their time to babysit others’ children. Some share their money to help those who have a need. Some help by giving a ride to others when their car breaks down. Some share their skills by making crafts, sewing, knitting, and then giving what they’ve made as a gift to others. When I was growing up I saw that my mom was always cooking! Before leaving for school, she was in the kitchen cooking. When coming back from school, she was in the kitchen cooking. Before going to bed she was again in the kitchen preparing a snack or tomorrow’s lunch or dinner. AND, she not only cooked for our family. She often invited our neighbors and other families to come and eat. Whenever there was a love feast, she would cook for others to enjoy. My mom, like these women who were with Jesus, ministered to others from whatever she had in her pantry and her fridge. My mom enjoyed sharing with others whatever she had. *[Storyteller, share with the children an experience of sharing with others from what you had.]*

As children, you can learn from these women and aspire to be someone who would share whatever you have with the ones around you. This story is not only for the girls; boys should also be those who share what they have, who minister to others! Have you shared something with someone else this week? What do you have that you can share with others? *[Storyteller, inspire the children to see what things they have they can share with others.]*

Beginner Level, Block 9, Week 10 Jesus—Caring for Little Children

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who care for younger ones.

Reading Reference: Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 9:36, note 36¹; 10:13-16, notes 14¹⁻²; Luke 18:15-17

Memory Verse: But Jesus called them to Him, saying, Allow the little children to come to Me...
(Luke 18:16)

Story Sample

Today I want to tell you a story about Jesus and some children, children just like you. It tells us a lot about how much Jesus cares for us, all of us. This story begins with some parents. We all have parents, and you know that your parents love you. This is one thing all parents have in common: they all love their children, no matter what. And they always want to do what is the very best for their children.

And that is what the parents in our story wanted when they brought their children to Jesus. They knew who Jesus was and all the things that Jesus had done. So, they knew that to bring their children to Jesus was the **very best** thing they could do. They wanted Jesus to bless each one of them.

These parents wanted their children to see Jesus, but there was a huge crowd. So, these parents had to really struggle to get their little ones close enough. But guess what? They were stopped on their way by the ones who were closest to Jesus, his disciples. In the Bible, it says they rebuked the parents. This means they scolded them for trying to bring their children to Jesus. Why do you think they scolded them? Well, I think they thought Jesus was too important to bother with some little children. Perhaps the disciples thought He should be spending His time doing more important things, like healing and answering important questions, than bothering with some little children. I don't think they were being mean as much as they were just trying to take care of Jesus and to protect Him from anyone they thought He did not have time for. They just loved Him and thought He shouldn't be bothered.

My oldest sister is more than five years older than I am. So, when I was in elementary school, it was her chore to babysit me and my two other sisters. She really didn't like to do this. We were such a bother to her! Especially when her friends would come over. We would do silly kid stuff, like marching around them with our dolls when they were talking. She would get mad and tell us to move out of the way and go to our rooms. We wanted so badly to be included, so it made us feel small and worthless. It doesn't feel good to be ignored or left out.

And that is what these parents felt when they were scolded for trying to bring their little children to see Jesus. But Jesus thought otherwise. In the book of Mark, it says that when Jesus saw this, He was very upset that the children were not allowed to come to Him. He didn't like that they thought He was too important to be with the children. To Jesus, everyone was important, even the smallest child. He told them, "Allow the little children to come to Me. Do not forbid them" (Mark 10:14).

So the children all came to Jesus. And He took them in His arms and He blessed them. The parents were so happy. The children were so happy. Jesus loved having the children come to Him. Jesus cares about the little ones. We also can be those who care for younger ones.