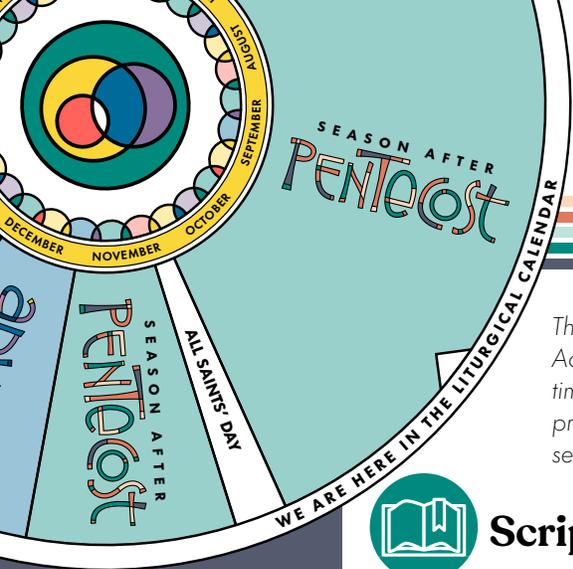


Mark 10:13–16

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday between October 2 and October 8



The Season after Pentecost is the period between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This season makes up half of the calendar year, and its liturgical color is green. It is a time to focus on the life and growth of the Church in the world, empowered by the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit. 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen captured the essence of this season when she wrote, "The Holy Spirit is the greening power of God. Our task is to blossom."



Scripture

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.



Questions

- When the disciples stopped parents from bringing their children to Jesus, what did Jesus do?
- The story tells us Jesus was "indignant." Indignant means feeling angry or annoyed when someone is treated unfairly. Will you show me your indignant face? What emotions did you feel as you heard or read this story?
- People didn't think children were very important in those days. They didn't have many rights or protections. When the disciples told the children to go away, Jesus advocated for the children—he wanted to meet them. To be an advocate means you support or defend something or someone. There are many movies and books where someone is an advocate or has an advocate; which ones can you think of? What is your favorite, and why?
- Jesus taught the people that children have a special place and special gifts to share in the kingdom of God right now, not just when they grow up. What gifts do children bring to the kingdom of God?
- We are advocates when we stand up for others who are not being treated kindly, tell others what we need or are feeling, and support people who need help. Sometimes when we advocate, we might feel nervous or excited! To handle and honor all those emotions, we can take a deep breath. How might you take a deep breath and then advocate for someone who needed help?

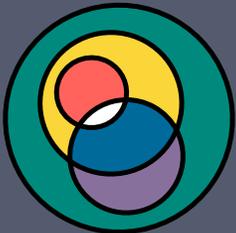
Look it Up!

Anyone can serve God and help build God's kingdom. Many kids have done just that!

Look up Jaylen Arnold and his Anti-Bullying Challenge.



mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Large paper, or white/
chalkboard

Coloring utensils
Drawing paper

Today, we heard the story of the disciples keeping kids away from Jesus. Jesus responded with indignation—anger towards something unfair. When Jesus cried out, “Let the little children come to me, do not stop them!” he was an advocate.

Have you ever heard this word before: advocate?

An advocate is someone who helps others and stands up for justice, kindness, and compassion. Anyone can be an advocate, no matter how young or old you are!

On two large sheets of paper (or separate halves of a chalkboard/whiteboard), write the letters A-D-V-O-C-A-T-E descending vertically. Explain that you will use these two acrostic templates to brainstorm ideas about **how-to-be-an-advocate** and **where-to-be-an-advocate**.

Think about the world and the people around you. Do you notice anything unfair? Can you think of anything you can do to help?

Discuss these questions as a group, then come up with at least one idea for each letter about **how-to-be-an-advocate**. How many can you think of?

Some examples to get you started:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A –Ask questions | C –Call elected officials |
| D –Donate money | A –Attend a protest/march |
| V –Volunteer | T –Team up with others |
| O –Organize an event | E –Expand your vocabulary |

Is there a cause/issue/organization you are passionate about? Is there something you want to help change in your community?

Discuss these questions as a group, then come up with at least one idea for each letter about **where-to-be-an-advocate**. How many can you think of?

Some examples to get you started:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| A –Animals | C –Climate Change |
| D –Diversity | A –Arts |
| V –Voting rights | T –Trees |
| O –Oceans | E –Education |

After brainstorming, invite participants to choose a topic from the list that sparks energy or curiosity and draw a picture of themselves being advocates.

Alternate Activity

When Jesus saw his friends blocking kids from coming to see him, Jesus spoke up and told his friends to stop. God’s heart is full of love for kids, and Jesus wanted to share this love with them! So Jesus chose to be kind and held his arms wide open for all the kids to feel a warm, loving hug.

Let’s play a frisbee game. As a way to practice sharing and receiving love, let’s make and play catch with Love Frisbees. Give each participant a paper plate face-down on the table, then help them draw a large heart in the middle of the plate (this step can also be prepared ahead of time). Next, invite participants to color and decorate their plates.

Once completed, participants can play catch in pairs or groups. Practice sharing and receiving love by speaking these phrases out loud as you play.

Thrower: “**You are loved!**”

Catcher: “**I am loved!**”



Micropractice

Jesus noticed children, even when other people tried to shoo children away. Remind yourself that God notices you. Wrap your arms around your shoulders, take a deep breath and say, “God sees me. God knows what I am going through.”



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrdm.in/minirevBAP19



Prayer

Dear God, sometimes it can be hard to stand up for justice, kindness, and compassion in our world because there’s so much work to do! Help us be brave and welcoming advocates, just like you were for us. Amen.

BUT WHEN JESUS saw THIS,

HE WAS

INDIGNANT

and said to

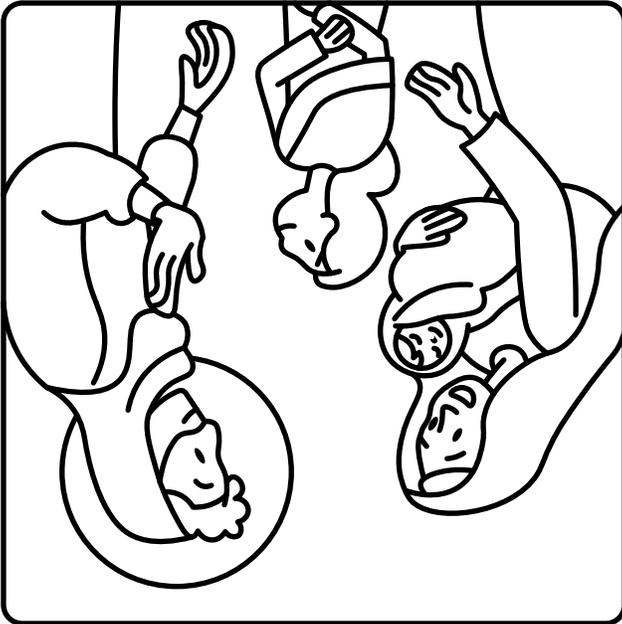
them



“let the little children

COME to ME”

1. Some people who heard Jesus' teachings for Jesus to hold. They wanted Jesus to bless their kids to say hello and even brought babies for Jesus to hold. They brought their kids to say hello and even brought babies



2. The disciples thought Jesus was too important to meet the children, so they began to shoo the families away. Back then, children were very vulnerable and had very little power.



4. Jesus took the baby in his arms and blessed her. He said, "This baby already knows how to love and trust God. To learn about the kingdom of heaven, you need to learn what these little children know."



3. But Jesus knew children were important. He got angry and told the disciples to stop it. They were wrong. Jesus told them children are a very important part of the kingdom of heaven.

