

# Small Group Discussion Guide

Mark 10:13-16

“Tike Truths”

Based on Sunday's  
Sermon 9/6/26

## Background

“Children today are viewed in a completely different way than they were in the first century. A significant reason is the influence of Christianity on Western culture. For example, the practice of exposure, leaving an unwanted child to the elements, wasn’t outlawed by Rome until ad 375, after Christianity had become the dominant religion. During the first century, Jews led the rest of the ancient world in the treatment of women and children; still, Jewish men didn’t consider women as their equals. Children were cherished as gifts from God, but they were not considered the most valuable members of society. On the contrary, they contributed little in terms of protection or provision, so they ranked low in terms of power, privilege, and influence.”<sup>1</sup>

“10:13. **People**—mothers, fathers, older children, and others—**were bringing little children** (*paidia*, those ranging from babies to preteens, cf. same word in 5:39; a different word *brephē*, meaning infants and young children, is used in Luke 18:15) **to Jesus** in order that He might **touch them**, a visible means of conveying God’s blessing on their future lives (cf. Mark 10:16). **The disciples rebuked them** (cf. 8:30, 32–33) and tried to keep them from going to Jesus. They probably thought children were unimportant (cf. 9:36–37) and should not waste His time—another instance where they thought only in human-cultural categories (cf. 8:32–33; 9:33–37).”<sup>2</sup>

## Discussion Questions

### Getting Started

1. What’s something children do naturally that adults tend to lose over time?

### Observation

2. What actions do the people take in vv. 13–14, and how does Jesus respond to each group (the people, the disciples, the children)?

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<sup>1</sup> Charles R. Swindoll, *Mark*, Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Tyndale House Publishers, 2018), 269.

<sup>2</sup> John D. Grassmick, “*Mark*,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 149.

3. What emotions or attitudes are evident in Jesus' reaction to the disciples?
4. What two things does Jesus *do* for the children in v. 16?

#### Interpretation

5. What is Jesus teaching about the kingdom of God?
6. What does Jesus mean when He says the kingdom must be received "like a child"?
7. Read Matthew 6:9-13. What does this passage teach about the kingdom of God?
8. What does this passage teach about Jesus' authority *and* His tenderness?

#### Application

9. What part of childlike faith do you personally struggle with most: trust, dependence, humility, or openness?
10. How can you intentionally cultivate a more childlike posture toward God this week?

*Prayer List:*