

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the God/Man, Jesus Series, Lesson 40

Lesson Title: Jesus—The Inviter

Take Home Point: Jesus welcomes children and invites all to receive his salvation as a gift.

Warm-Up:

The story is told of a boy named Pablo who grew up in Madrid. Pablo caused his parents much anguish as he rebelled against their attempts to guide him. Over time, the tension in the home became unbearable. Finally he ran away from home, vowing never to return. His parents were saddened, but remained hopeful that their son would turn from his rebellious ways. Years passed with no word from him, and in desperation the father put an ad in the newspaper. It said only, "Pablo: All is forgiven. If you wish to come home, meet me at the Center Park at 8PM next Tuesday. Father." Over 100 men came at the appointed time, all answering the invitation from their father to be restored.

Read: Mark 10:13-16

Observation (What happened?):

How did Jesus want the children to be treated?

How did Jesus say a person must receive the kingdom of God in order to enter it?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the disciples were turning the children away from seeing Jesus or being blessed by him?

What does it mean for someone to receive the kingdom of God as a little child would?

Insight:

What was it about children that Jesus had such a soft spot for them? He often called children to himself. Perhaps it was because of their trust, their ease of belief, and their willingness to put the past behind them. When a little child says, "I'm sorry," and the other person says, "That's okay," the child really does forget and move on. Perhaps it was because he knew that children were not particularly looked on with favor in the 1st century Roman culture. That is certainly still true today in 21st century America. Jesus gave children time and the blessing of being considered worthy of individual attention no matter what age. What kind of treatment do children get in our culture? They deserve our time and our attention. Thank you for being a shepherd! It's a wonderful way to show children that they are important to Jesus and to you.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Upon what do you base your entry into the kingdom of God? (See John 14:6 if you are not sure.)

Think of a time that your words or actions turned someone away from Jesus. What did you do to keep it from happening again?