

Missionary Initiation

Jesus and the Children

MAIN POINT

Everyone is welcome in God's family. God wants all children to know him.

MATERIALS NEEDED

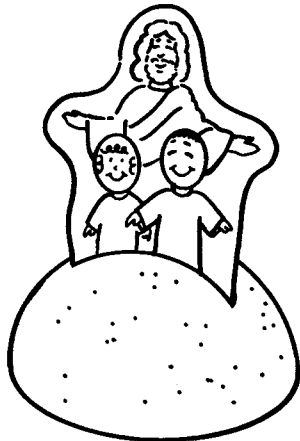
- Bible (Luke 18:15-17)
- Reproducible: "Jesus and the Children" for each child
- 4" Styrofoam ball, cut in half, one half for each child
- Popsicle sticks, one for each child
- tape or glue
- crayons or markers
- scissors

PREPARATION

Read the passage from Luke and be familiar with the story. Cut the Styrofoam ball in half. Copy and cut out the "Jesus and the Children" picture.

INSTRUCTIONS

Invite the children to hear the story of Jesus and the children. Explain to them that Jesus wanted to be close to the children, and that he has a special love for children. Explain to them that not only is this a true story but also that Jesus invites *them* and all their friends to be his friends as well.



Have the children color the picture and invite them to draw their picture next to Jesus. On the other side of Jesus, they should draw a picture of a friend (preferably one they know from somewhere besides church, such as school). Glue or tape their picture on the Popsicle stick and insert it into the Styrofoam ball. Tell the children to place it near their bed so that they can pray for themselves and their friends to become closer to Jesus each day.

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