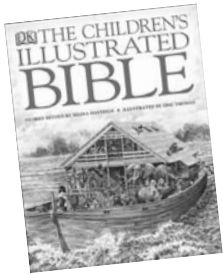


Ordinary Time, Proper 22



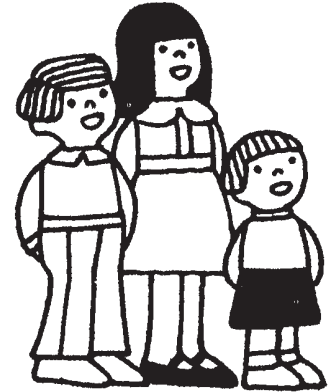
The Children's Illustrated Bible

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch 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.

—Mark 10:2–16 adapted

Come as a Child

Read today's scripture from Mark. Discuss: What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child? To enter the kingdom we must be like a child—playful and happy. What makes you happy? How would you talk to Jesus if you were sitting on his lap? How would you feel while you were sitting there being held by Jesus? What would you like to say to Jesus? What are some things we need to get rid of in our lives to come as a little child (anger, frustration)?



The Welcome Rap

Have a person depicting Jesus come into the room (in costume or not) to share in this echo rap with the kids from Mark 10:13-16. This can be used in the worship service.



Jesus: Parents brought their children.
Kids: Parents brought their children.
Jesus: To me in the crowd...
Kids: To you in the crowd...
Jesus: To get kids blessed and prayed for.
Kids: To get us blessed and prayed for.
Jesus: But the disciples said, "Hold on!"
Kids: (*continue to repeat each line...*)
Jesus: "Don't bother Jesus!"
"Don't you see how busy he is?"
But I said to the disciples, "Hold on!"
And I took the kids and blessed them.
(Walk around and bless each one, touching their heads or shoulders.)
And I said to the disciples...
Unless you become like a kid...
Trusting and faithful and loving...
Sharing and hopeful and kind...
Friendly and thoughtful and hugging...
You won't enter my kingdom.
And unless you welcome them
As your best guest.
Your *very* best guest.
You won't enter my kingdom.
So come join me in heaven.
In heaven on earth.
And be like a child, so loving...Amen.



Jesus went into Judea where crowds came to him, and he taught them. People brought their children to him, but the disciples kept them away. Jesus was angry. "Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of God belongs to them." And he took the children in his arms and blessed them.

—Mark 10:2–16 adapted

Fill in the blanks to complete the scripture.

"Let the _____ come _____, for the _____
_____ belongs to _____."