

ALL SAINTS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Lessons for children ages 3-4+

March 22 - The Friend of Little Children

Jesus and the children, from Matthew 18,19; Mark 10; Luke 18

Jesus Storybook Bible pp. 256-263

From the story the children will learn that God's love is a gift and, like all gifts, it is free.

LESSON - from The Jesus Storybook Bible- (you can use a puppet or a stuffed animal, in this case Hamilton the Hedgehog, to tell your story)

Welcome, friends. I'm so excited to be here with you today! Everyone take a seat—it's time to hear a part of The Big God Story. I love learning from The Big God Story. Do you?

Allow answers.

Who else likes to learn about The Big God Story?

Invite responses.

That's right—Hamilton the Hedgehog! Shall we call him and ask him to join us?

Children will answer.

On the count of three, let's call Hamilton the Hedgehog together. Are you ready?

One, two, three. Hamilton, where are you?

Hamilton comes out of his house-

Hamilton is going to listen to the story with the children today. Are you ready to hear this part of The Big God Story?

Hamilton nods excitedly.

Me too! But before we get started, do you know where we can find The Big God Story?

Hamilton nods his head and gestures to the Bible.

That's right—the Bible. God gave us the Bible so we can learn about Him. It's full of things that help us get to know God. We read the Bible to learn about God and about His Son, Jesus. And I know that you love to dig, dig, dig right into God's Word to find out what He has to say to us. Isn't that right, Hamilton?

Hamilton nods his head.

Let's all stand up and sing our Bible Song together.

Bible Song (sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Now it's time to hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

Now it's time to hear God's Word

So let's look in the Bible

(be sure to show the Bible to remind kids where the story comes from)

Jesus Storybook Bible- "The Friend of Little Children" pp. 256-263

Tips: Read with expression, hold the book up as you read so the children can see the pictures clearly, be creative!

RESPOND (Snack/game/craft)

Gift craft:

- Gift handout
- Glue
- Decorating items (stickers, wrapping paper pieces, ribbon/bows, crayons).

Give each child the "God's gift is free" page. Say, "The disciples had forgotten that how clever, or how good, or how important you are makes no difference, because God's love is a gift. Raise your hand if you have ever received a gift. Thank you, hands down. Raise your hand if you had to pay for the gift. No, the point about a gift is that it's free. On your paper you can see a picture of a gift. Decorate it with these supplies so that it looks like the best gift ever!"

BLESS - if time before children leave, give the following blessing:

(Child's name), **Jesus loves you.**

Open a Bible and read Eph. 2-8-9:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast."