



Week of Oct 1 - a

Scripture: Mt 19:13-15

Main Idea: Parents were bringing their children to Jesus, wanting him to lay his hands on them to bless them and pray for them. The apostles (disciples) evidently thought this was a disruption and sidestep from his true ministry. They felt so strongly, and Jesus wouldn't want this, that they rebuked the parents for trying this. But to their surprise, Jesus said, "do not hinder these children, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Questions

Preschool: Jesus told the disciples, "do not hinder the children." Are you important to Jesus?

Grade school: WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS SAID THAT? Children need to be blessed by Jesus and he wants to bless them. Parents should be encouraged to bring their children to Jesus at an early age and teach them His ways. Do you think Jesus wants to hear your prayers and your songs of praise?

Teen: How did Jesus feel about the children being brought to Him? Are we valued by Jesus regardless of age? Is there anything a parent can do that would be more important than showing their children the way to Jesus?

Adult: Have you ever lain awake at night worrying about a child or grandchild, niece or nephew? Maybe the real question is how many times have you lain awake? How would you feel to know that a mighty man of faith had prayed for this little one? Would your worry be lessened? Romans 8:34 tells us that Jesus intercedes for us, which would include our beloved little ones. If you were at the right hand of God, what would you ask for the children of today's world?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help our children grow up in the Lord, and for us to encourage them.

October Memory Verse:

Psalm 103:12 (ESV)

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.



Week of Oct 1 - b

Scripture: Mt 19:16-30

Main Idea: A man came to Jesus asking what he needed to do to have eternal life. Jesus eventually points out something he lacked. He wasn't willing to sacrifice his wealth for God. He went away sorrowful. Jesus summarized this lesson by stating that "only with difficulty" will a rich person go to heaven.

Questions

Preschool: Is money or your toys more important to you than God? If they were, what would God think?

Grade school: The Bible often warns us about the dangers of desiring money. While money isn't wrong and can be used for many good things, the love of money is something that's dangerous. Why do you think that is true? We can't pursue both – it's either we pursue God or riches.

Teen: Why did the rich man want to keep his things? Why did Jesus say it was hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom? What is possible for God? What in your life would be hard for you to sacrifice for Jesus, if it was needed?

Adult: When you think of rich men and women, who comes to mind? Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates? Do you know that Forbes says the top richest countries are Ireland, Luxembourg, Singapore, Qatar and Macoa SAR? The US comes in at 9 with a personal purchasing power (PPP) of around \$77,530. Of course, these rankings all vary depending on which markers you use. It is easy to say that someone else is "the rich man" of which Jesus speaks. But talk to someone in Burundi (PPP \$840) or Brazil (PPP \$17,260) or Spain (PPP \$45,950) Do you think they will consider us rich? Does this make you look at this scripture differently?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For us to put God first in our lives and be willing to sacrifice anything that comes between us and God

October Memory Verse:

Psalm 103:12 (ESV)
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.